



news

# Minister warns on Islamic rally

LOUISE JURY

The Home Office yesterday warned the organisers of an Islamic fundamentalist rally planned for this weekend that any speeches inciting terrorism or violence will not be tolerated.

In an usual and strongly-worded warning, Tom Sackville, the Home Office minister, said he was concerned about the Rally For Islamic Revival due to take place in the London Arena in Docklands.

Amid fears that the event will be used by some to advocate Islamic revolution, he said the Government would "ensure

that the law in this country is upheld".

"This rally will be monitored, and anyone who breaks the law, whether by their statements or actions, will face prosecution," he said.

Incitement to racial hatred carries a maximum sentence at crown court of two years in jail and/or an unlimited fine, and in a magistrates' court of six months in jail and/or a £5,000 fine.

Egypt and Algeria are among the countries that have put pressure on the Government to ban the 1996 International Islamic Conference which is ex-

pected to draw thousands of Muslims to discuss the way forward to a single Islamic state dominating the world.

The organisers, who claim to have received threats to bomb the 12,000-seat arena and against themselves, advocate revolution to overthrow Middle East governments they consider to be corrupt.

The Home Office confirmed that fears centred on three people who have been excluded from Britain on the grounds that their presence here would "not be conducive to national security".

They were named as Sheikh

Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah, Omar Abdul-Rahman, the blind Egyptian cleric imprisoned over America's World Trade Centre bombing, and Osama Bin Laden, a Saudi national who has called for a holy war against American troops in Saudi Arabia.

Mr Sackville said: "The British Government strongly condemns any support for terrorism or calls for violence of any kind."

"The UK is second to none in its determination to fight terrorism wherever it occurs, and whatever its purpose. Ministers

have expressed their concern about plans for an Islamic group to hold a so-called Rally for Revival in London on 8 September."

The rally organisers insisted no one would break any laws. Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad said they had decided to withdraw the three most controversial messages from Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, Osama Bin Laden and Omar Abdul-Rahman, so there was "no legal excuse" for anyone to stop the rally going ahead.

The sheikh, who comes from the group Al-Muhajiroun, the "voice, the eyes, the ears of the

Muslims", said the messages were being distributed through the Muslim community by other means.

"We have had tremendous pressures from different directions - from the Government, even, for the security of the Muslim brothers who are coming to the conference. We decided we didn't want to show these messages."

A Scotland Yard spokesman would say only that the police was aware of the event, and as a matter of routine, had discussed arrangements with the organisers and venue managers.

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

**D**istribution of Thickhead, the latest "alcopop", was suspended by Carlsberg-Itetley last night. The move is pending a repackaging of the drink. The brewer also cancelled all advertising because it was "sufficiently concerned" that underage drinking might be encouraged. The drink, fluorescent orange "gel carbonate" was launched on Tuesday and immediately ran into opposition from anti-alcohol campaigners, who complained that the drink would appeal to teenagers.

The Portman Group, the drinks industry watchdog, said the label directly contravened its code of conduct, by portraying a young man who could appear to be under 18, and by not displaying the word alcohol prominently enough. Ebbe Dinesen, the chief executive of Carlsberg-Itetley said last night: "We are sufficiently concerned that we have accepted their view." It will be around four weeks before the repackaged drink returns to the shelves. *Glenda Cooper*

**D**

In a statement read during the second day of the trial at Southwark Crown Court, the divorced father of two said it had not been possible to determine what the tapes contained before buying them. "I am not saying I bought these videos assuming they were *Gone With The Wind*. I was aware they contained pornographic material, but what I was not aware of was the precise content." Coghlan, of Islington, north London, denies he was "knowingly concerned in a fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on importation" of a quantity of "indecent or obscene material". *Jojo Moyes*

**T**he Government was accused of "wool-pulling" to justify \$400m cuts in science funding for universities. Sir Ronald Oxburgh, the new president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and rector of Imperial College in London, described as "nonsense". Treasury claims that the cuts in capital funding over the next three years could be replaced by money from industry under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). "The PFI is just a way of borrowing money, and you have to raise recurrent sums of money to service the loan," he said yesterday.

The cut represents a 30 per cent reduction in funding, and has led to complaints from universities and the pressure group Save British Science that it will lead to dangerous corner-cutting in laboratories which cannot afford safety equipment. *Charles Arthur*

**T**ougher controls on dietary supplements, including herbal remedies are needed according to the consumer magazine, *Which?* It claimed that few of the increasing number of pills and potions on the market were medicines but many made claims as if they were. Others did not tell the whole story on possible side-effects.

The supplements included ginseng which can reportedly give rise to side-effects, including high blood pressure. Ginseng should not be taken with caffeine, yet supplement brands including "Herbal Booster" and "Up Your Gas" mixed ginseng with guarana, which contains caffeine. *Which?* claimed. *Glenda Cooper*

**C**hild abuse deaths have dropped by two-thirds in England and Wales over the past 20 years - the biggest decline in the western world, research at the University of Southampton has shown. The study does not suggest that child abuse itself has declined. Colin Pritchard, Professor of Social Work Studies, said yesterday, but that child protection services are intervening earlier and successfully reducing its most extreme consequence.

The improvement, which has shifted England and Wales from having the third worst level of child homicides in 1973 to the fifth best among 22 developed nations in 1993 has come despite two major recessions, which traditionally increase pressure on marginalised families. *Nicholas Timmins*

**H**ome-helps working for Labour-controlled Knowsley Council in Merseyside have won compensation under equality legislation after their enhanced payments for working evenings, weekends and bank holidays were cut.

Their work had been rated similarly to mainly male workers, such as refuse drivers, none of whom had suffered such reductions. Unison, the public service union, claimed 200 care workers, who had been threatened with dismissal, would receive up to £500,000 in back pay. But the council said the figure was substantially less. *Barrie Clement*

**T**he skipper of the world's oldest active square-rigged sailing vessel, the *Maria Assunta*, appeared in court yesterday on charges arising from the ship's wrecking on the Cornish coast last year and the deaths of three crew. The hearing, at Bodmin Magistrates' Court, will decide whether there is sufficient evidence for 55-year-old Mark Litchfield, of Maidstone, Kent, to face trial by jury at crown court.

The 137-year-old wooden vessel broke up on rocks near Padstow. The hearing is likely to last up to two weeks.

**O**nly one consumer in more than 1,000 could correctly identify the government minister who looks after their interests, a survey for BBC1's Watchdog programme has found. Researchers took a life-size cardboard cut-out of consumer minister John Taylor to the world's busiest shopping thoroughfare, Oxford Street in London. Suggestions as to the identity of the mystery cut-out ranged from actor Bob Hoskins to former Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev. When Mr Taylor, MP for Solihull, was asked about his achievements, he said: "I think I have contributed to the area of unit pricing. I have contributed to ladder safety, where there are 44,000 injuries per year from people falling off ladders and step ladders - and we're working very hard on fireworks." *Glenda Cooper*

### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

		OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS
Austria	...Sch40	N.Ireland ...F16.00
Belgium	...Bf80	Italy ...L4,500
Canada	...Pc300	Ar. Mad. 13 weeks Europe £310.76; Zone 2 Middle East, Africa, Asia and India £314.05; Zone 2 Far East and Australia) £226.70. To other places send cheques payable to Johnnes International Media Services Ltd to 43 Millhouse, London E14 9TR or telephone 0171-461 3505.
Cyprus	...Ccl20	Malta ...43 cents
Denmark	...Dkr1	Hong Kong ...Nz20
Iraq	...45	Portugal ...Esc35
France	...Fr1	Spain ...Pcs20
Germany	...DM1.5	Sweden ...Sk21
Greece	...Dr450	Luxembourg ...F160 USA ...\$3.00
		Back issues of the Independent are available from Hattie Newspapers, telephone 01983 840370.

A melting moment for Naomi as wax twin makes a catwalk debut



Naomi Campbell unveils her wax double in London yesterday at the Fashion Café, which she owns with model friends Claudia Schiffer, Elle MacPherson and Christy Turlington; Ms Campbell is the first 'supermodel' to have her image moulded by Madame Tussaud's and set among more than 400 waxen celebrities in the famous museum

Photograph: Edward Sykes

## Blair's business jamboree becomes PR man's festival

MICHAEL HARRISON

Half the delegates who attended Labour's much-hyped and heavily trailed conference in central London yesterday, to hear the party leadership set out its manifesto for business, were not business at all but public-relations executives, academics, trade unionists, diplomats - or Labour MPs and officials.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, opened the event by saying it was a "particular pleasure to see so many distinguished business people gathered at a Labour business conference". He was told, he added, that 92 of Britain's top-100 companies were represented.

An examination of the off-



A pat on the back for John Prescott from Blair yesterday

cial attendance list suggests that less than a third of the companies that make up the FTSE-100 Index were represented, and only a handful of chief executives of large companies were listed as attending. Of those, Gerry Robinson of Granada, Lord Blyth of Boots, Liam Strong of Sears and John Rose of Rolls-Royce, turned up only for the breakfast briefing, and one, Norman Askew of East Midlands Electricity, did not make it at all.

Disappointment at the calibre of those attending was summed up by one delegate, who said: "After all the advance billing, and given the Labour party line-up on display, the attendance is very poor, both in quantity and quality."

Those who did attend heard Mr Blair spell out five pledges to business: a promise that inflation would be kept low and tough rules imposed on spending and borrowing; a commitment to place Britain at the centre of Europe in a role that is outward-looking and anti-protectionist; better education standards and training for those

in work; support for small businesses and help to tackle late payment; and a new partnership between government and business to revitalise Britain's infrastructure.

Mr Blair's speech and those of his shadow-cabinet colleagues, including the deputy leader John Prescott, were greeted with polite applause.

According to some delegates the muted response was explained by the fact that they had heard it all before. Mr Blair's speech, right down to the joke he used to warm up the audience, was a virtual carbon copy of the one he gave in July to the annual conference of the British Chambers of Commerce in Birmingham.

The mood was summed up by John Smith, the director of regulation for Anglian Water, who said: "Inevitably we have reservations about some areas of policy, such as the windfall tax [But] ... this time Labour has made much more effort to conduct a dialogue with business and therefore its policies reflect much more understanding of business."

Boardroom U-turn, page 19

## Politics proves the sticking point

ALEX SELL

Labour's plans for business were met with a distinctly lukewarm response by industry leaders. Declining it "more a political meeting" many walked away none the wiser.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions," Sean Murphy, managing director of Japanese bank Sanwa said. Aloc Reed, chairman of Reed Personnel Services, said: "I would have been naive to expect it [de-

tail] and they would be naive to offer it."

Opinion was split on the usefulness of the conference. Those seeking detail on policies such as duty on fuel and wind-turbine taxes came away content, those seeking explanation of how Labour would control the financial instability of change of government or clarification over EMU membership and the level of a minimum wage were disappointed.

An examination of the off-

icial attendance list suggests that less than a third of the companies that make up the FTSE-100 Index were represented, and only a handful of chief executives of large companies were listed as attending. Of those, Gerry Robinson of Granada, Lord Blyth of Boots, Liam Strong of Sears and John Rose of Rolls-Royce, turned up only for the breakfast briefing, and one, Norman Askew of East Midlands Electricity, did not make it at all.

This view was echoed by Michael Mosling, senior di-

rector of project finance at Nikko (UK).

Attempts by a Labour Government to legislate on corporate governance issues such as those recommended by Greenbury would be met with resistance and resentment, he said. Intervention and tinkering with corporate taxation would similarly find investment being directed elsewhere.

On other tax issues Mr

Mosling thought Labour would not be radical.

## Killing of INLA leader may not end feud

DAVID McNUTTRICK

Ireland Correspondent

The man shot dead in Lurgan, Co Armagh, Hugh Torney,

was the leader of one of the two warring factions within the organisation. The leader of the other camp, Gina Gallagher, was shot dead in January, reportedly on Torney's orders.

Torney's death may bring an end to the blood-letting, with each side reckoning that honour has been satisfied. Or one side or other in this particularly unpredictable group may

continue to seek vengeance, a tendency which has been one of the primary characteristics of INLA members.

The risks involved in being an INLA member are the stuff of many bad-taste jokes in Belfast. They are illustrated by the fact that, of 27 defendants in a major INLA trial in the mid-1980s, eight have since been killed. One of these was killed by loyalists; the rest all died in internal feuding. The Sinn Fein spokesman Mitchel McLaughlin called on the INLA factions to disband, declaring: "Neither of these two groups has any constructive contribution to make to the struggle for justice and the search for peace."

Torney's republican career stretched back to his teens. In 1971 he was injured during a gun battle with troops in west Belfast, and in 1973 he was jailed on an arms charge. Over the years he escaped several times, attempting to kill him, and survived a number of murder bids by INLA associates.

He spent several years on remand on murder and other charges in the mid-1980s but was acquitted when the "supergrass" trials collapsed. When

shot dead he was on the run, having last year skipped bail in the Irish Republic, where he faced trial for an arms offence.

An SDLP delegation yesterday met Irish ministers in Dublin in advance of the multi-party talks which reopened in Belfast next week. The Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, said renewed confidence was needed after a summer of unrest.

The death penalty. Is it legalised murder? Or is it justifiable revenge? Find out Polly Toynbee's view in this week's Radio Times.

**RadioTimes**  
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT

الله من ألا صل



## news



The room where Karen Morgan spent the last eight years of her life.

Photograph: Matthew Richardson



Karen Morgan's mother (in dark suit) and her father (grey suit) at their daughter's funeral

**MICHAEL STREETER**

Karen Morgan lived like a "medieval monk", retreating from the world into her bedroom for 14 years. When her body was found, her legs were so wasted and twisted she was incapable of walking.

She slept on filthy floorboards in a bare room, from where she dominated her parents and her brother, Russell, so much that when she died aged 29 they decided to join her in death. But their suicide pact failed.

Schoolfriends, neighbours, relatives - even her father and brother - had all been shunned when the shutters came down inside Karen's mind. A bucket used as a toilet became her only furniture.

By the time of her death in April, her self-isolation was nearly complete. For the previous eight years she had seen only her mother, and even then she ordered the older woman around with hand-written notes.

Her bizarre life and death - from bronchial pneumonia

caused by a cancerous brain tumour - were described as the inquest into her death at Croydon Coroner's Court, south-east London, yesterday.

Paul Rose, the coroner, who recorded a verdict of death by natural causes, said the case raised some questions of the power of social service departments, but admitted it was unique in his experience and "totally bizarre".

Detective Inspector Robert Harrall said that from the age of 12 she had undergone psychiatric treatment but found staying in hospitals so unpleasant that when she returned home she would strip off her clothes and anything else associated with the institutions.

When she reached 15, her parents, Bob and Josie Morgan, were told that hospital treatment was no longer appropriate. Rather than lose her to a residential school, they decided to look after her at home in Erith, Kent. From that point, though she had resumed school, Karen's life began to take on its hermit-like pattern.

Det Insp Harrall said officers had found "page after page" of notes written by Karen to her mother. If Mrs Morgan refused a command, there would be

"tantrums and screaming and shouting sessions".

The family did not know when she died on 30 April, Det Insp Harrall said, and for three days Karen's body lay in the house, cleaned up, while Mrs Morgan worked as a cleaner to buy enough pills for them all to commit suicide.

Russell, a "willing partner" in the suicide, went first, but after

The Morgans' house in Erith, Kent

had felt they were "protecting" their daughter.

He said that any neglect was "entirely self-imposed" and Karen was not an unwilling "detainee" in her room, which had no lock. There was no explanation as to what caused her condition.

Delivering his verdict, Mr Rose said: "The whole history of this case is totally bizarre and unique in my experience. The deceased decided to live like a recluse, like some medieval monk deciding to live in a cell."

Karen had a "strange personality" and her parents had been unable to stand up to their daughter and report the situation to the authorities. Her death was not linked to her strange lifestyle, he said.

However, Mr Rose said he was "worried" that Bexley social services, despite taking legal advice, had been unable to act because there was no neglect or ill-treatment. No one had visited her since she was 15.

He recommended that thought be given to whether social services' powers should be increased so they intervene in such situations.

Mr and Mrs Morgan were not present at the hearing, which was told they had been treated with Russell at Bexley Hospital because of fears for their mental states. The parents were due to be discharged soon.

A spokesman for Bexley council, whose social services department carried out an inquiry, said they had offered help when Karen was 15 but the parents declined, and Karen had seemed to settle. There had been "no way of knowing" of Karen's isolation, and no one from the community had come forward. Updates in procedure had since improved, he added.

Brigid Dolan, a psychologist at St George's Medical School, in Tooting, south-west London, said there were a few cases of people shutting themselves away and starving to death.

"The surprise is they don't happen more often. People fall through the nets all the time but we are trying to block the holes these days."

In a bleak room, in a nondescript semi, in a faceless suburb, a girl shut herself away for 14 years



### Lying on floorboards, she shut off all contact with the world

For the last eight years of her life not even her father and brother - who also became a recluse - saw her. All her furniture was removed and she used the bucket as a toilet. Meals were put in her room only when she gave her mother permission.

Det Insp Harrall said officers had found "page after page" of notes written by Karen to her mother. If Mrs Morgan refused a command, there would be

feeling sick his parents called an ambulance whose crew was then told of Karen's death.

When Karen's body was examined, her muscles were wasted, her toes clenched tightly down and her left leg bent. It would have been impossible for her to walk, but she had been relatively well-nourished.

The policeman said the parents had felt overwhelmed and embarrassed by the situation, and that however "inexcusably"

I hope this ecumenical campaign succeeds," he said.

Dr Ambrose did not think the posters would drive anyone out of the church, as was suggested: "It has to be a concern that it might offend older churchgoers. But as a vicar, you hear the most amazing stories of why people have stayed away from church."

Previous campaigns, he said, had only really reached people who would go to church in any event. That was not the point of advertising. The posters, T-shirt and chasuble transfers will be offered to 40,000 churches across the country this autumn, and the money raised from selling them will be used to buy radio spots and poster sites in public places in December.

A spokesman for the Methodist Church was worried that young people might be disappointed when they finally went inside an Anglican church: they could find that it was less exciting than the posters had led them to believe.

A spokesman for the Catholic Church was surprised to learn that the campaign had been used at all. The joke about the Virgin might have offended Catholics, she said: "In some ways I think it's good just because it's so different. It's got shock value, which I think is good. But, being boring about it, the campaign puts a very negative gloss on what's supposed to be a very joyful event."

## God knows, Christmas can be a bad hair day too



**Bad hair day?**  
You're a virgin, you've just given birth and now three kings have shown up.  
Find out the happy ending at a church near you.  
Call to faith: The Church of England's message this year

Christmas has been called many things over the last 2,000 years: this year, the Church of England will call it a "Bad Hair Day". This is the slogan that has been chosen by the Churches Advertising Network, an unofficial ecumenical body set up by the Church of England to sell Christmas to young people. It will appear in orange text on a purple background.

The slogan continues: "You're a virgin, you've just given birth, and now three kings have shown up. Find out the happy ending at a church near you." It will be used on poster sites, T-shirts, and chasubles. It may also feature on Classic FM radio.

"Our previous campaigns were fairly safe and a bit preachy, too," said the Rev Tom Ambrose, press officer for the diocese of Ely, and one of the members of the network. "Some people have, I suppose, simply been shocked by this year's slogan. But they haven't put into words what their shock is. I suppose it is because we are using this sort of language."

Sources close to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr David Hope, suggested that he was more shocked. "Incandescent" was one word used of his reaction to the first draft. Dr Hope himself is on holiday and cannot be reached for official comment, but sources close to him suggested he had objected strenuously to the project, and made

his objections known to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey. "He thought it would be incomprehensible," said one of his advisers. Publicly, Dr Carey was more

cautious. "I support the intention of conveying the message to young people who know nothing about the church, that churches are willing and wanting to communicate with them."

## Five to design new Manchester

LOUISE JURY

Five teams of architects and urban designers were yesterday given six weeks to put forward plans for rebuilding Manchester's bomb-damaged city centre.

The five partnerships were chosen from 27 entries in an international competition launched after the IRA's £3,000bombed devastated the heart of the city in June.

Defying initial fears that the process might reproduce the kind of rows that dogged the controversial Cardiff opera house competition, architects and the city council yesterday

expressed delight that plans were proceeding well.

Sir Alan Cochrane, chairman of Manchester Millennium, the task force set up to oversee the reconstruction, said they had a great opportunity.

"Manchester has been faced with a unique challenge and it is gratifying to see the way in which everyone has worked together to create something special for the city."

It had been difficult selecting the shortlist but he was convinced the five had the "talent, vision and experience" to take the re-building forward.

Richard Leese, leader of the

city council, said they wanted to enhance the historic parts of the city and improve retail and investment opportunities to strengthen Manchester's position as a "lead European city".

"It is an opportunity no city has had in this country for 40 or 50 years," he said.

But Owen Luder, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), said the competition was being set up in haste and might prove less than satisfactory. RIBA made several suggestions on how the competition should be run including the need for an architect on the judging committee and that

entries should be judged anonymously to give less well-known names a chance against established practices.

Howard Bernstein, chief executive of Manchester Millennium, said submissions should be in by 8 October when they would choose the best plan.

Some estimates put the price of restoring the city at £500m,

most of which will be met by the private sector and insurance,

and possibly European funds.

The shortlisted firms are:

Halliday Meechan Architects;

Llewlyn-Davies; EDAW; R

James Chapman Architects;

Building Design Partnership.

## Power and Performance

A Sensational Pentium® P120, 16Mb Multimedia System, with FREE Colour Printer and Massive Software Bundle



Incredible Value

1200MHz Pentium® The P120 runs almost 60% faster than a P75 and provides excellent performance. The P75 is now old technology.

16Mb RAM For best performance with Windows 95 and other multi-tasking operating systems including Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Access, Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator, Outlook Express, etc.

1000Mb Hard Disk Master 100 not enhanced IDE hard disk provides plenty of storage potential.

64bit Graphics and Superior Screen High resolution colour graphics with fast refresh rates up to 260Hz make the P120 ideal for demanding applications of colour, business, games systems or any other system.

Overall Speed Multimedia Fast speed CD-ROM drive with 16x read and 8x write speeds - no extra cost. A little more speed cost, who cares? More speed is all included. Remember you get no real benefit by going for an expensive 8 or 16x speed drive. Better to spend the extra on something else.

Almost £1000 off Software Microsoft Windows 95, together with the latest software from Lotus, FrontPage

As Above But With • Colour & black & white printer • Large 17" SVGA screen • P120 - Pentium 200MHz external monitor (limited offer) • FREE - Stock printer printer pack - second price £499 (limited offer)

P120 Desktop Bundle 2  
£1397.08 (£1189)  
inc.VAT

**Free**  
EPSON Stylus II S  
Colour Inkjet Printer  
  
**Free**  
Modem With Tower Model  
BabT approved 23.8kbs  
Fax/Data/Internet modem with tower model  
  
A free modem will be included with the top 500 orders of the P120 Tower system.

01282 777 111 TIME Computer Systems Ltd.  
Lines Open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-5pm

This high specification computer includes a fast 1200MHz Pentium® processor, 16Mb fast 64-bit RAM, fast 16-bit graphics and a massive 1000Mb hard disk. If you worry you can't afford a massive computer system, then you're wrong! This computer costs less than a P75 and comes with a free basic printer and a FREE 20.8kbs data/fax/modem. Special period.

£29.00 per month for 24 months.

**Wetlands at risk:** Rare plant and wildlife being threatened by excessive water extraction from rivers, fens, lakes and bogs

## Heritage despoiled by water companies

NICHOLAS SCHOON  
Environment Correspondent

Some of Britain's best wetland wildlife sites are being damaged because water companies are taking too much from them, a report from the Government's official nature conservation arm said yesterday.

English Nature said that 89 officially-designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) were at risk from over-abstraction of water from boreholes sunk into aquifers or direct from rivers. While water companies were the chief culprit, farmers with spray irrigation, mineral companies, golf courses and fish farms were also to blame.

The sites in question are streams and rivers, lakes, fens and bogs. All have been design-

more interesting, unusual flora. For instance sundews, carnivorous plants which trap insects in sticky secretions, have become quite rare on that site.

"The general trend on these SSSIs which are drying out is an attrition of the richness of species."

Four rivers which are SSSIs or proposed SSSIs have been affected – the Hull, the Hampshire Avon, the Blythe in Worcestershire and the De Lank, a moorland tributary of the river Camel in Cornwall.

These are among the jewels in the crown of England's rivers, as only 4 per cent of the total river length designated as SSSIs. The De Lank, Camel and Hull have all been hit by water company abstractions, while the Blythe has large quantities of water taken from it by British Waterways Board for its canals.

Dr Newbold said negotiations to reduce water usage and lessen the environmental damage were underway at about 40 per cent of the worst affected sites.

Friends of the Earth wildlife campaigner Matt Phillips said:

"Just this summer the Department of the Environment granted Yorkshire Water a drought order to take extra water from the river Hull."

"As water demand continues to rise over the next few decades, there's going to be a very serious impact on wildlife. The water companies need to start investing much, much more in conservation, repairing leaks and giving their customers help with getting showers, water butts, low-flush toilets and so on."

English Nature believes one answer is to store more water in winter, when rainfall is heavier – either in small reservoirs serving individual farms and golf courses or in larger ones built by the water supply companies. Yet many environmentalists strongly oppose construction of big new reservoirs.

Companies and individuals which abstract water need a licence from the Government's environment agency. But for some of the older licences, granted 30 years ago or more, the agency can only alter its terms and demand less water is taken if compensation is paid.

He singled out Hatfield Chase, on Humberside, which has been hard hit by farms taking water from boreholes for spray irrigation.

"It's a degraded bog now," he said. "This summer you could walk across it and hardly get your boots wet. You lose the

stmas  
lay too

nated as SSSIs because they have unusual or particularly rich plant and animal life. If the damage continues, some will eventually lose this status.

The report is based on a survey of some 160 sites which English Nature judged might be at risk from over-abstraction. It demonstrates that while Britain's human population escaped a drought this summer, wildlife which depends on wet places is in retreat as the nation's demand for water slowly but steadily rises.

Chris Newbold, English Nature's senior wetland ecologist, said 18 of the 89 SSSIs had already been harmed by over-abstraction, including four rivers. Water companies were to blame for a dozen of these.

He singled out Hatfield Chase, on Humberside, which has been hard hit by farms taking water from boreholes for spray irrigation.

"It's a degraded bog now," he said. "This summer you could walk across it and hardly get your boots wet. You lose the

### DAILY POEM

#### Full Moon

By Vita Sackville-West

*She was wearing the coral taffeta trousers.  
Someone had brought her from Isfahan,  
And the little gold coat with pomegranate blossoms,  
And the coral-hafted feather fan;  
But she ran down a Kentish lane in the moonlight,  
And skipped in the pool of the moon as she ran.*

*She cared not a rap for all the big planets,  
For Betelgeuse or Aldebaran,  
And all the big planets cared nothing for her,  
That small imperious charlatan;  
But she climbed on a Kentish stile in the moonlight,  
And laughed at the sky through the sticks of her fan.*

Vita Sackville-West's reputation as a poet is reconsidered by James Lees-Milne in *Fourteen Friends*, published next week by John Murray (£19.99). Her best known work, *The Land*, a poem of some 2,500 lines which follows the cycle of a farmer's year in Kent, was published in 1926. Shortly afterwards she began *The Garden*. It was not completed until 1946 but as both a treatise on gardening and an investigation of inner and external landscape, it is considered her finest achievement. This short poem appears in *Second Selections from Modern Poets*, made by Sir John Squire, published by Secker & Warburg in 1924.

### Paying too much for Breakdown Cover?

Vehicle rescue from just £29.50\* per year

JOIN TODAY CALL FREE

FREE INFORMATION PACK

0800 000 111

100% of EN MOTORISTS SATISFACTION SURVEY  
IN SPAIN. Sept 1995

REF: C5185



National Breakdown

\*Plus a once only enrolment fee of £29.50 waived if you join by Direct Debit. Cars registered before 31/7/87 are subject to additional fee of £12.50.



Thirsty work: One of several wild Tarpan ponies brought in from Poland to help graze Redgrave and Lopham fens on the Suffolk-Norfolk border back into prime condition after damage caused by water extraction. A borehole operated by the Essex and Suffolk Water Company has now been closed

Photograph: Herbie Knott

## Are homeless people worth just 2 minutes of your time?

THE NUMBER of homeless families in the UK has almost doubled in the last fifteen years. Shelter believes much more decisive action is needed.

When you look at the figures, providing decent housing for homeless people makes economic sense. The savings on social services and extra health care costs alone would make it economically worthwhile. And what price do you put on ruined lives? The children, for instance, who may never know a real home...

It's not about politics, it's about



getting homeless people decent homes, and off the streets. But to get this message across we need to know what you feel about homelessness.

Please spend just two minutes of your time completing this survey, and return it as soon as you can. If you can also make a donation of £15 (or whatever you can afford) we would be very grateful. We want to publish the results by 30th November 1996, so please don't delay.

URGENT:  
Please reply  
by OCT 4  
1996

### Shelter National Opinion Survey on Homelessness



<p>Please help us make this the widest ever survey of attitudes to homelessness. Your contribution will be much appreciated, and your answers treated in the strictest confidence. Please complete and return by October 4th 1996.</p>		
<p><b>Q1. Are you aged:</b></p>		
18-24 <input type="checkbox"/>	25-34 <input type="checkbox"/>	35-44 <input type="checkbox"/>
45-54 <input type="checkbox"/>	55-64 <input type="checkbox"/>	65-74 <input type="checkbox"/>
75+ <input type="checkbox"/>		
<p><b>Q2. Do you:</b></p>		
<p>own your own home or have a mortgage? <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>rent privately? <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>rent from a Housing Association or local authority? <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>live in someone else's home? <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>other <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p><b>Q3. Do you share your home with:</b></p>		
<p>children? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>partner/husband/wife or anyone else related to you? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>Someone not related to you? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p><b>Q4. Have you ever been homeless or at serious risk of losing your home yourself (through a tenancy ending, not being able to afford the rent or mortgage, break up of relationship, or other reason)?</b></p>		
<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p><b>Q5. Do you know anyone else who is either homeless or at serious risk of losing their home in such a way?</b></p>		
<p>At risk of homelessness Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Actually homeless Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p><b>Q6. Bad housing can have serious long-term consequences. Please show how important you view these problems as being (tick one box only for each problem; 1 being the most important):</b></p>		
<p>1    2    3</p>		
<p>Children doing badly at school <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>People suffering asthma, bronchitis and other serious diseases <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>People becoming more dependent on social services <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p><b>Q7. Do you agree or disagree that homelessness has a bad effect on the following?</b></p>		
<p>The families and individuals concerned Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>Local communities Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>Society as a whole Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>The economy Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p><b>Q8. Do you think politicians are at present sufficiently concerned about the plight of homeless people?</b></p>		
<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p><b>Q9. Would you be willing to write a letter to an MP which might help to get homeless people housed?</b></p>		
<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p><b>Q10. Would you be willing to make a donation to Shelter to help homeless people?</b></p>		
<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>Name: _____ (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)</p>		
<p>Address: _____</p>		
<p>Postcode: _____</p>		
<p>Telephone No: _____</p>		
<p>Thank you for your time. If you would like to make a donation, please return your cheque, made out to 'Shelter', with this survey. We suggest £15, but any amount you can give will be greatly appreciated.</p>		
<p>Here is my gift of: £15 <input type="checkbox"/> Other £ _____</p>		
<p>Please return this whole survey to us, Shelter, FREEPOST, Room 57, 88 Old Street, London EC1B 1ND.</p>		
<p><b>Shelter</b> 30th anniversary</p>		
<p>Registered in London: 1058192 Charity Number: 263710</p>		
<p>All money raised will go towards Shelter's campaigning and vital services. Shelter never makes the names and addresses of its supporters available to commercial organisations. From time to time however, we may send your name to other fundraising organisations. If you would prefer not to receive these communications, please tick this box <input type="checkbox"/></p>		





## news

# A concrete folly, a slimy old bridge or an international masterpiece by the Corbusier of County Durham?

NIGEL BURNHAM

A concrete folly, derided by those living nearby as a "slimy old bridge", has been proclaimed by architectural watchdogs as an "internationally important masterpiece".

The Pasmore Pavilion, designed by Victor Pasmore, a major figure of the post-war British avant-garde, was conceived as "an architecture and sculpture of purely abstract form through which to walk, in which to linger and on which to play".

Built in 1963, it was the artist's post-modernist contribution to Peterlee, Co Durham, where he was appointed consulting director of urban design.

The "Corbusier of Co Durham", now 87 but then the Master of Painting at Durham University, had wanted to bring some cheer to the lives of miners relocated from pit villages.

But to residents of Sunny Blunts estate, the pavilion and the polluted pond it spans has brought only misery as a target for vandalism and a meeting place for teenagers with a predilection for *al fresco* sex.

Easington council feels the same way. It is objecting to English Heritage's recommendation to Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, that the sculpture should be listed Grade II\*. It has asked the Government's Conservation Agency to abandon its plans to list the sculpture and assist instead in its demolition.

Joan Maslin, councillor for

Sunny Blunts, is the pavilion's fiercest critic, having campaigned for 14 years for its removal and lobbied the Prince of Wales, Sir Jimmy Savile and the Army for their help.

"The name Victor Pasmore means nothing in Peterlee," she said. "All we know is that we have a heap of dirty, slimy concrete covered in graffiti which youths climb up to have sex on and from which to urinate on passers-by."

"Nobody here wants it and if English Heritage does, they should take it somewhere else and list it there."

Elain Harwood, an English Heritage historian, insists that the sculpture is a national treasure which needs to be restored and maintained.

"It's an absolutely unique work of considerable international importance," she said. "It was an extraordinary thing to put in the heart of a new town. There isn't another piece of public sculpture like it anywhere in the country – neither Pasmore nor any other artist did anything like it again."

Ms Harwood said she was "disappointed" that the pavilion was so unloved.

"It's the one thing that makes people go there," she said. "We are trying to put the town on the map and they're saying, 'Not!'

Pasmore, who died on a visit to Peterlee in 1982 that the vandalism had humanised his pavilion, demonstrating its acceptance by the community, could not be contacted.



Not in our backyard: People in Peterlee want to demolish the Pasmore Pavilion, which has been recommended for listing by English Heritage

Photograph: Richard Rayner

## Save money by hanging around the house.



**£3.99**  
each  
**Superfresco White**  
**Blown Vinyl**  
(patterns 15017, 15008, 15010)  
WAS £5.99

**DO IT ALL**  
LET'S DO UP BRITAIN!

**DIA**  
Helpline  
Free help and advice  
7 days a week  
0800 436 436

**Project**  
**Guides**  
Over 60 free guides  
to lead you through  
most DIY tasks

**Bonus**  
**Card**  
Free £5 bonus  
voucher for every  
£100 spent

**Decorating**  
**Adviser**  
Help and advice  
available instore

Offer subject to availability.

officers are still a little wary of allowing inexperienced officers to try to control informants. There are obvious risks."

Other policing trends praised

in the report include the targeting of prolific offenders in operations such as the Metropolitan Police's Operation Bumblebee, more proactive

policing and assigning responsibility for most investigations to local units.

Publication of the report

came as Met officers arrested 329 people in London under the Bumblebee initiative. In a series

of dawn raids police recovered a substantial quantity of stolen goods along with two pistols, CS gas canisters and drugs.

About 1,700 officers took

part, searching 600 addresses. Ian Johnston, an assistant commissioner, said that since Bumblebee was launched in June

1993 about 34,000 people had been arrested for burglary. Residential burglaries had fallen by 5 per cent in the past year while the detection rate was up 24 per cent.

## Money talks as £70 informers turn in burglars

PATRICIA WYNNE DAVIES  
Legal Affairs Editor

The cultivation of networks of informers could be a key weapon in the fight to cut burglaries, says the Audit Commission, the local authority spending watchdog.

An initiative to recruit and reward informants has helped lead to the biggest increase in clear-up rates for burglaries in one force, the commission said yesterday.

The scheme, run by Hertfordshire Constabulary, involves the systematic use of informants at an average payment of around £70 per arrest, and is highlighted in a report by the commission as an example of good practice that other forces should follow.

Hertfordshire increased its clear-up rate for house burglaries by 14 per cent between 1993 and 1995, the biggest improvement by any force in England and Wales. Every suspect interviewed is also approached as a possible source

of information on other crimes and criminals. Prison visits are seen as a prime opportunity to recruit informants.

The commission found that the number of registered informants had tripled to 900 since 1993, even though those people who had ceased to be active were more systematically weeded from the register. It estimates that the intelligence provided led to an average of two arrests a day in 1995.

Around two-thirds of Hertfordshire's informants are run by uniformed officers, a rarity before 1993. Many have received specialist training on informant handling.

Detective Superintendent Alan Shannon, head of crime management with the force, said intelligence-led policing including the cultivation of informants and the targeting of persistent offenders by surveillance squads had been crucial to the force's success.

Kate Flannery, a member of the commission's senior management, said: "Some chief

## 'Jackanory' still has a story for today's child

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Media Correspondent

The classic children's story-telling programme *Jackanory* – suspended by the BBC last year – is to return as "heritage" repeats.

*Jackanory Gold*, with stories told by Dame Judi Dench, Bernard Cribbins and the late Kenneth Williams, will be part of this autumn's schedule on Children's BBC, it was revealed yesterday. Stories are still important to modern children, Anna Home, head of BBC Children's Programmes, said.

Last year, when production of the story-telling programme ceased after 29 years, the BBC said stories from books had "a limited appeal" as modern children were more interested in youth soaps such as *Byker Grove* and magazine shows such as *Live and Kickin'*.

However, Ms Home laid emphasis on the classic drama in yesterday's autumn schedule.

A Sunday tea-time dramatisation of Mark Twain's *The Prince And The Pauper* stars Keith Michell playing Henry VIII for the fifth time in his career.

Launching the BBC's autumn children's season, Ms Home said there will also be new series of old favourites *The Queen's Nose*, telling the adventures of feisty Harmony Parker, and *The Demon Headmaster*, the baddie who wants to



Back to basics: Dame Judi Dench and Bernard Cribbins will be on screen again with *Jackanory Gold*

take over the world. "One of the things which was proven last year was the success off *The Demon Headmaster* and *The Queen's Nose* is the way today's children are deeply traditional and enjoy good stories well told," she said.

"It surprised all of us. We did a couple of shows last year which were computer and electronic and they were not particularly popular, and there's a show on ITV called *Bad Influence*, again to do with new technology, and that wasn't very successful."

"In a way, that restores my faith, in as much as *The Demon Headmaster* and *The Queen's Nose* couldn't be more traditional in terms of children's

Sec

Qu

You've got a

ditional  
lam?

# Secret face of China's lost civilisation



Archaeologists hail discovery of ancient culture as 'greatest find of the century'

DAVID KEYS  
Archaeology Correspondent

Chinese archaeologists have unearthed a previously unknown ancient civilisation, about 3,500 years old. This is the first discovery of ancient urban civilisation on this scale for more than a century.

They have found well over 1,000 jade and bronze items including some of the world's strangest sculptures, ET-style masks with eyes on stalks and heads with giant ears.

Archaeologists are stunned by the discovery and baffled as to the identity of the ancient people who created this glittering lost culture. Although the civilisation flourished in what is now western China, it does not appear to have been culturally or ethnically ancestral to modern mainstream Chinese culture. Instead, it may be distantly related to either the Tibeto-Burman tribes or the much less numerous Austronesian peoples (cousins to the Pacific Polynesians) who both still inhabit parts of western China.

Details have been emerging only over the past decade, following the discovery in 1986 and 1988, at Sanxingdui, in China's Sichuan province, of sacrificial pits filled with jade and bronze treasures. In-depth scientific examination and Chinese language publication of the material is still in progress, and China has only now allowed the major finds out of the country for the first time for a spectacular three-and-a-half-month exhibition at the British Museum from 13 September.

Most of the finds – bronze heads and statues, ritual equipment and jade treasures – have been unearthed inside a massive ceremonial walled city, covering almost a square mile. To its heyday – 3,600 to 3,100 years ago – the city, with its residential districts and major public buildings, probably had a population of between 10,000 and 20,000 and boasted four miles of enormous defensive ramparts. Made of 50 million cubic feet of rammed earth, they were 130ft wide, around 35ft high, and were topped by a brick wall and pierced by gateways.

It is likely that the metropolis was not only the capital of a substantial kingdom, but was also an important centre of religious pilgrimage.

Nearly all the bronze and jade

treasures have been found in a series of deep sacrificial pits, next to what were probably temples, built on vast earthen platforms. The identity of the gods which were being offered in these sacrifices is as great a mystery as the identity of the ancient people themselves. However, a detailed analysis of the finds so far suggests that this lost civilisation held elephants, birds of prey, and the concept of the tree in great reverence.

The biggest sacrificial pit, dating from 1100BC, contained 500 bronze, jade and stone treasures arranged in three layers. The top layer consisted exclusively of elephant tusks, while the bottom layer was made up of bronze birds and animals, small bronze animal face masks, small jade and stone im-

plements, seashells, and fragments of bronze trees.

However, it was the middle layer which yielded the most spectacular items – 41 human-like heads, 15 human-like masks (including two with "telescopic" eyes on stalks), a series of bronze wheels, a dozen ritual bronze vessels, parts of several bronze trees and a 5ft 7in bronze statue of a man standing on a 3ft pedestal, decorated with elephant images.

Archaeologists world-wide are now beginning to grapple with the mystery of the Chinese discovery – and its implications. Who were the people who ran this amazing civilisation? Were they kings or priests? And, most tantalising of all, are there other, major, lost civilisations still awaiting discovery?

Mystery man: A bronze figure found in a pit (below) at Sanxingdui, from about the 13th to 10th century BC

Photographs: China Cultural Relics Promotion Center/British Museum



Golden lure of whisky galore

STEVE BOGGAN

A Scottish teacher is inviting thousands of people to take part in a treasure hunt across the Highlands and islands in search of precious golden booty – 1,000 bottles of rare malt whisky, worth at least £30,000.

Richard Heederson has planted clues to the whereabouts of the treasure in a new book about the fictional wanderings of the Prince of Wales. And if no one finds it by Christmas 1999, he intends to invite all his treasure seekers to a huge millennium Hogmanay to drink the lot.

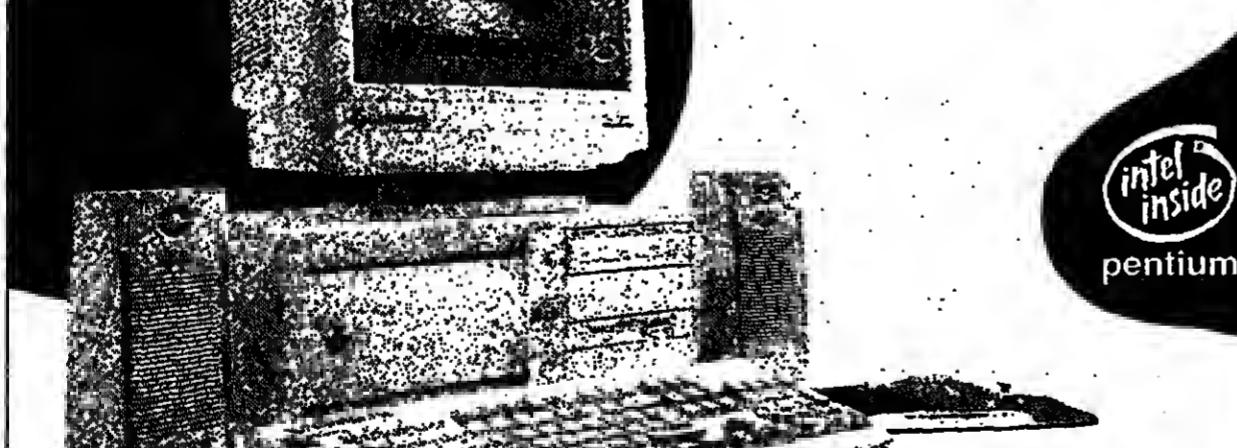
Richard Heederson, a well-known climber, got the inspiration for his hunt from Kit Williams, whose clues to the location of a golden hare in the early 1980s in *Masquerade* had Mr Henderson, and hundreds of others, digging up parts of the countryside for years.

The book, *Chasing Charlie*, proceeds from which will go to the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust, involves a group of children and their teacher in a search for the lost Loch Arkalg Treasure, a consignment of gold that vanished in 1746. Along the route taken by Bonnie Prince Charlie 250 years ago, they meet a mysterious man, nicknamed Wiggy, who is intended to be the Prince of Wales.

Mr Henderson said: "The hunt for treasure, once begun, gets a strange hold on you. Always, something draws you on; some life and splendour – that prospect of a moment of discovery, a moment of triumph. I thought, well, instead of a hare, my book can be about an heir, and the discerning reader will be drawn by the gleaming lure of whisky."

Mr Henderson wrote to the Prince about his idea, and on learning that malt whisky is the heir's favourite drink, 109 distilleries donated 1,000 bottles including 1948 Strathisla, 30-year Springbank, 1936 Mortlach and 30-year-old Glenfarclas. Some copies of the book will be given away in bars along the west coast of Scotland. Others can be obtained for £5 from Black Raven Publishing, Berkhamsted Castle, HP4 1LJ.

**Quality + Service + Price = Value**



### P5-120 MULTIMEDIA

- Intel® 120MHz Pentium® Processor
  - 16MB EDO RAM
  - 256KB Pipeline Burst Cache
  - 3.5" Digital Drive
  - Toshiba® Eight-Speed CD-ROM
  - Western Digital® 2GB IDE Hard Drive
  - Creative Labs Vibra Sound Card and Alesis Lansing ACS40 Speakers
  - 32MB DRAM, 64 Bit Graphic Accelerator
  - 15" Vivitron® Colour Monitor\*
  - Desktop/Mini Tower Case
  - Windows® 95 105 Key Keyboard & Mouse
  - Microsoft® Windows 95
  - MS Generations Software Bundle
  - Games Bundle
  - MS Encarta® 96 (US version)
  - SuperScope Virtual Reality Software
  - 3 Year Limited Warranty
- £1149 (£1384.15 inc VAT and Delivery)

**GATEWAY2000**  
You've got a friend in the business.

0800 39 2000  
<http://www.uk.gateway.com>

Gateway 2000, Chelmsford Industrial Estate, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3LZ, UK. ©1996 Gateway 2000, Inc. All rights reserved. Gateway 2000, Inc. is a registered trademark of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel Inside Logo, Intel, Pentium and Creative are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

Gateway products qualify for a money-back guarantee using the CXT site. Actual savings rates can be up to 17% less.

All sales subject to delivery by Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions and subject to change.

Great value – that sums up what you get when you choose a PC from Gateway 2000. We are a Fortune 500 company, America's No. 1 direct PC manufacturer, and a major force in the European market – but we've never forgotten the down-to-earth values of the American Midwest, where Gateway 2000 was born. We believe 100% in quality. All our PCs are built to order and we use the latest top-name components to give you 24-7 trouble-free technology. Take the P5-120 Multimedia, for instance. The 120MHz Intel Pentium Processor, 2GB hard drive and 16MB of RAM add up to high-powered performance, efficiency and speed. Take into account the multimedia features – an 8-speed CD-RW drive, adjustable speakers and state-of-the-art software – and your options multiply.

#### Relax –

"You've got a friend in the business." Service and support are essential to the Gateway 2000 equation. Our highly-trained staff will help you set up the PC that suits you. And you'll be entitled to a 30-day money-back guarantee (excluding costs not refundable in Britain) and a 3-year warranty on all desktop systems and free telephone support for as long as you own your PC. When it comes to our offices, we've certainly done our best. You won't find this quality for these prices anywhere else.

#### Visit our showroom!

For details of our full range of desktops and portables, call our friendly sales team free on 0800 39 2000 or see us at our showroom at 12 Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E.

Hours of business:  
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-2pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm.

**OR spread your insurance**

**payments over a year.**

**Interest free. Interested?**

**Call 0800 333 800**

**for a motor or  
home quote.**



Phone for free quote weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. A written credit quotation is available on request.

Motor Insurance not available in Northern Ireland.

We regret that we cannot quote for rented unfurnished accommodation.



younds

and it's been  
hope that it is the very  
beginning of a  
Rabin-like peace  
process, with the two  
leaders making mutual  
statements.

Standing in a small room at  
that same Tel Aviv Press  
club where Rabin had  
given his famous speech  
Monday, Mr Netanyahu  
reaffirmed that he too  
was now in favour of  
the peace process.  
Said Mr Netanyahu:  
"Our government  
is committed to  
the peace process."  
Mr Netanyahu  
also said that  
he had no objection  
to the peace process  
but that he wanted  
to see more progress  
before he would  
sign a final peace  
agreement.

We want to see  
the pace of the  
process speeded up.  
Otherwise, we will  
have to wait  
months before  
we can see  
the results of  
the peace process.



Gripping stuff:



Photograph: Reuter

Binyamin Netanyahu (left) and Yasser Arafat going through the motions at yesterday's icy border meeting

## Siege threat in Burundi as rebels target capital

DAVID ORR  
Nairobi

Residents of the Burundian capital, Bujumbura, are bracing themselves for further attacks following the first outbreak of fighting in the city since last year.

Although the Tutsi-dominated army insists it has pushed back the Hutu rebels who lobbed mortar rounds at the university on Tuesday, many believe the city could soon become besieged in the manner of Sarajevo or Kabul.

Yesterday, United States aircraft landed at the airport to pick up all "non-essential" American citizens remaining in the capital. It was rumoured that the ousted Hutu president, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya,

who sought US diplomatic protection shortly before a military coup at the end of July, would be evacuated on the plane.

Violence has been escalating rapidly in the tiny central African nation since the army reinstated Pierre Buyoya, an ethnic Tutsi, as president six weeks ago today. The main rebel group, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD), already claims to be in control of the northern Karuzza region, the scene of heavy fighting in recent days.

The rebels' growing confidence has been demonstrated by their attack on a military post in the northern commune of Gahombo on Tuesday, prior to which they had restricted operations to raids on Hutu settlements and

ambushes on National Route 1, Bujumbura's main road which runs through Kayanza.

Tutsis make up about 15 per cent of Burundi's 6 million inhabitants and Hutus 85 per cent. The CNDD, through its military wing, Forces for the De-

fence of Democracy (FDD), is fighting to overthrow the Buyoya regime which suspended parliament and all political parties on assuming power. Despite this week's attack, the rebel group has denied it intends to take the capital.

"The rebels are putting a lot of pressure on Bujumbura", one Western diplomat told *The Independent*. "There is no doubt they're better organised than they were, and that they can hurt the army if they want to. They're waging real war now."

In an effort to defuse the sit-

uation, Mr Buyoya has offered to talk to all armed groups opposing him if they guarantee to stop killing civilians. Previously, he had demanded that they lay down arms before any negotiations could begin. "If their purpose is to seize power," said the diplomat, "the rebels will continue to fight. If what they want is power-sharing, then they are clearly in a position to have their demands respected".

Mr Buyoya has also promised to restore the national assembly this month and to reinstate political parties within three months. These are two of the conditions regional leaders say would have to be met for them to withdraw sanctions imposed on Burundi after the coup.

"It's difficult to tell what the reaction of neighbouring countries will be," said another Western diplomat. "Mr Buyoya's promises are a step in the right direction but they can hardly be seen a sufficient answer."

Fuel is now in short supply in Bujumbura as the economic blockade continues to strangle

the country. Exports have been stalled by the embargo and many companies have had to lay off workers. Hutu farmers coming into the now-Tutsi town of Bujumbura to sell their produce are often turned back by the rebels. According to one report, peasants have had hands cut off for taking foodstuffs to market.

"There's been no electricity day or night in Bujumbura," said one aid worker in the capital. "A lack of transport has led to a shortage of basic medicines in many areas of the countryside. Food prices have also gone up, in some cases doubling".

Burundi's junta stands accused of massacring thousands of Hoto civilians since coming to power on 25 July. Despite his naming of a Hutu as prime min-

ister and his sacking of three controversial army officers, Mr Buyoya has failed to win over significant numbers of Hutus.

Indeed, the largest political party, Frodebu, was yesterday reported to have thrown its support behind the rebels. A spokesman said the party was now appealing to all Hutus to rally behind the CNDD. Such a development would mark a significant deviation in the will of the Hutu community to resolve the conflict peacefully.

Burundi has been torn apart by ethnic strife since its first freely elected president, Melchior Ndadaye, a Hutu, was assassinated in 1993. Amnesty International estimates that more than 150,000 people have lost their lives since then.

close to agreeing on measures including redeployment in Hebron. Mr Netanyahu refused to be drawn, saying this and other issues would be discussed in an Israeli-Palestinian steering committee. Mr Arafat said: "I have nothing to add, but to state that we will continue to negotiate and to co-ordinate in all efforts, by all means."

The handover of Hebron and removal of Israeli troops from most of the city is the most contentious immediate issue. Mr Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing and religious parties has said it wants to re-negotiate the terms Labour agreed: Palestinian officials said they were willing only to discuss implementation of the existing deal.

Hardline members of the Israeli coalition said the meeting betrayed Likud policy, but Mr Netanyahu insisted it was in line with his campaign pledges to replace the previous Palestinian negotiations with a tougher brand of "peace with security". Labour politicians and many Israeli civil servants will nevertheless take yesterday's summit as proof of what they had long predicted: that Mr Netanyahu would have to, in the short term, return to something like the Oslo peace process because there was no other course.

Israeli officials said Mr Netanyahu had come to accept that Israel's security depends on cooperation with the Palestinian Authority (and that Mr Arafat has done a good – maybe too draconian – security job). Some form of Hebron deal, linked to wider access to Israel for Palestinian workers, may be possible in the near future.

The real problems will come in the medium or longer term, when Mr Netanyahu faces the core issues still undecided, such as the final status of the Palestinian authority, the future of Jerusalem and the final division of the West Bank between Palestinian areas and Israeli settlements.

## 2 for 1 Comedy Tapes Offer

### THE INDEPENDENT

If laughter really is the best medicine, then *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday* are about to improve your health dramatically.

In conjunction with Laughing Stock, we are giving you the chance to buy up to 20 audio comedy cassettes on a "two for the price of one" basis. Two double cassettes cost £8.99, two single cassettes £6.99, or choose one of each for just £7.99. All prices include postage and packing. Our list includes some of the country's top comedians from Paul Merton, Eddie Izzard and Jo Brand, to timeless classics such as Tony Hancock and Peter Cook. So next time you're sitting in rush hour traffic, say goodbye to road rage and have a good laugh instead.

**How to Apply.** To obtain your two audio comedy cassettes for the price of one, start by collecting three differently numbered tokens from the seven we are publishing in *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*. Today we are printing "Token 6". Our final token, "Token 7", plus the final order form will be printed in tomorrow's *Independent*.

Send your tokens, together with a completed order form and cheque, to the address below. With your three tokens you can order as many cassettes as you wish in multiples of two. Photocopies of tokens and order forms are not acceptable.

When ordering, please allow 28 days for delivery from the date of your order. No responsibility will be accepted for delays caused by industrial action within the postal service. Orders must be received by 30 September 1995. Cassettes are subject to availability. Offer available to readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland only. If you have any queries concerning receipt of your order, please call our helpline on 0181 699 9922. Please make cheques payable to "Independent Comedy Offer" and send your order to: Independent Comedy Offer, P.O. Box 3763, London SE23 2DQ.

**Double Cassettes - 2 for £8.99**  
Eddie Izzard  
"Unrepeatable"  
Paul Merton  
"My Struggle" (HarperCollins)  
Jo Brand  
"Shouldn't Be"  
Rowan Atkinson  
"Ape"  
The Redmond Shakespeare Company  
"Radio Show Vol 1"  
Red Dwarf  
"Infinity Welcomes Careful Drivers"  
Baz Elton  
"Lie"  
Barry Cryer  
"That Dennis' Mo"  
Gordon Brittas  
"Sharing the Dream"  
Various Inc. Lily Tomlin, Stephen Fry  
"Just for Laughs"  
Frankie Howerd  
"Frankie's Off"  
"Humanity International"  
"The Best of the BBC's Michael Bentine"  
"The Original Goon"  
Peter Cook  
"Anthology 1961 - 1989"  
Shirley Valentine  
read by Willy Russell

**Single Cassettes - 2 for £6.99**  
Sue Perkins  
"Sue's Tape"  
Mervyn Bragg  
"Timeworn Ninety Five"  
Greg Proops  
"Lie"  
Tony Hancock  
"The Blood Bowler and the Radio Man"  
John Bird and John Fortune  
"Long John"

2 for 1  
Comedy Tapes Offer

**Token 6**

THE INDEPENDENT

This is Sam.

**Sam's just got £40 by opening a Midland student account!**

(which she'll definitely spend on a pair of Converse® trainers).

**She's also got a BT Chargecard with £10 worth of free calls**

(which she might use to call her boyfriend Tony in Leeds

– then again she might not).

She could have called  
**0800 180 180**

or applied for an account  
at her local Midland.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



Midland Bank plc reserves the right not to open an account. This £10 BT Chargecard offer is only available to Midland credit card holders. Full writing details of Midland's Student Service banking eligibility are available from any Midland Branch or telephone Dept 180 180.

For a copy of the Midland Student brochure, post the coupon to Midland Bank plc, Dept. 40603, P.O. Box 757, FREEPOST, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1ZZ.

*Circular ceiling fresco painted in  
1901 by Thomas Mitchell.  
Cannizaro House, Wimbledon.*



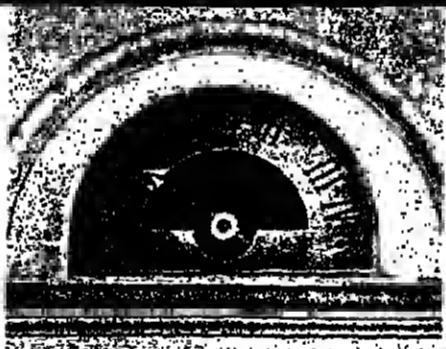
*Britain's largest dovecote, built in 1746.  
Johnstounburn House, Hume nr. Edinburgh.*



*18th century  
spoon backed chair.  
Shelley's, Leyes.*

THERE'S SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT  
ABOUT ALL OUR HOTELS.  
EVERYTHING.

*Edwardian brass lift level indicator.  
Whites, London.*



*Art Deco  
Olympian figurine.  
The Mount Royal, London.*



*Original 1877 stained glass  
window depicting Richard III  
arriving in Exeter.  
The Rougemont, Exeter.*



*One of eight 19th century busts in the main lobby.  
The Grosvenor, London.*

*Original 1796 leaded  
Gothic window.  
New Hall, Sutton Coldfield.*

We understand that hotel guests, especially perennial travellers, rather like the place they're staying in to have a character of its own. So when you step into one of our hotels, that vaguely disturbing notion of *déjà vu* one associates with chain hotels, is pleasingly absent. In 100 locations across the country. For more information and reservations phone 0800 18 17 16.



**THISTLE HOTELS**

This advertisement has been issued by, and is the sole responsibility of, Thistle Hotels Plc and approved by Baring Brothers International Limited ("Baring") and Merrill Lynch International ("Merrill Lynch"), which are regulated by the FSA, only for the purposes of section 21 of the Financial Services Act 1986. Baring and Merrill Lynch are acting exclusively for Thistle Hotels Plc and will not be responsible to anyone else for providing the protections afforded to their customers nor for providing advice in relation to its proposed share offer. The value of shares can go down as well as up. Persons wishing advice should consult a professional adviser. Submissions/STK

# Where the TGV had its slow origins



RIDING THE IRON ROAD

In the latest in our summer trains series, Mary Dejevsky tracks down the beginnings of the first railway line in France

**Andrézieux** - There was only one living being waiting on Platform One for the 0929 to St Etienne and it was a large brown rabbit, nibbling tufts of grass that had grown between the cracks in the paving.

At Andrézieux station, on the edge of the small town centre, there is no stationmaster with cap, whistle and signal board. There is barely a station, only a one-time railway building, shuttered and boarded up, and one track. Another track ends abruptly, without buffers; traces of two others can be seen in the grass, but the rails are long gone.

The only signs that this is a working station are the new wooden bench and fence and a graffiti-covered ticket machine.

You can travel from here to the declining steel city of St Etienne and even on to Lyons but only twice a day, and only in the morning, when the train from Clermont-Ferrand stops.

This spot, in the upper Loire valley in what are now suburbs of St Etienne's conurbation, is all that remains of the earliest days of the French railway system. It was here that France, better known now for pioneering Europe's fastest train, the TGV, inaugurated its first railway, 21km long, on 30 June 1827. The first steam engine ran five years later, when a passenger service also started.

At 0925 on a Monday morning, the only other passenger, a camera-wielding tourist in green and purple, walked on to the platform. Three minutes later, a bell rang out, lights flashed on the level-crossing close by, and the 0929 came into view.

The two carriages were half-full: vocal Germans with ample luggage all over the seats, and a sprinkling of mostly young locals. For the next 16 minutes the train trundled along between its

embankments, with the skyline of St Etienne looming ever larger. From time to time you could see the Clermont-Ferrand-St Etienne motorway running alongside, bordered by industrial estates and shopping mall.

It was no one's fault that *Trainspotting* was advertised as St Etienne's main cinematic attraction, nor that the drizzle turned to rain, nor that the Musée of Art and Industry, which charts the economic and social history of the city that once "manufactured everything", was shut for renovation. But it all set a certain mood, of a city competing against the odds, and not winning.

St Etienne was a city, like Sheffield, of steel and coal and cutlery, and like Sheffield, it had to find other things to do when the steel industry contracted. Some of its metal skills now go into making the swords that win French fencers their Olympic medals, but most are not needed.

St Etienne's great coup of recent years was to be chosen as headquarters of France's biggest mail-order company, Manufrance. To mark its new status as white-collar, new-tech, service-orientated city, it cleaned the soot off the buildings that line its ramrod-straight 19th-century streets and slapped a preservation order on "the old town". The most lively part of the centre, though, seemed to be around the tourist centre and cathedral. Not because either was much visited, but because they about the large, bustling social scenes at the tourist centre I asked for information about the history of the railways. "No, we don't have anything, try a bookshop," said the man. Then, almost as if afterthought, he added: "You know, St Etienne



Making connections: The station in Andrézieux, where in 1827 began the revolution that culminated in Europe's fastest train. Photographs: Spike

had the first railway in France."

It might have been the first, but it turned out to have a big drawback. Getting back to Andrézieux is not easy. A coach runs every couple of hours through the day, but to catch a train, you have to wait until the evening rush-hour.

If you miss the 1940, you must wait for the 2200 coach; after that, you must stay in St Etienne. And the fare for the round trip of 42km? The best part of 32 francs (£4).

That evening, the rain-spattered train, the 1806 from the biggest of St Etienne's five stations (two are now closed) was only sparsely occupied. The other passengers all seemed to be regular commuters on polite greeting terms. "Bon soir, Madame", "Bon soir, Monsieur", they said to each other as they got on, and then no other word before alighting.

Over dinner at the hotel, barely 10 minutes' walk from the railway station, everyone was clustered in the cellar cafe. It was cool and humid, not the weather for eating outside under the plane trees. Over eminently acceptable house Beaujolais, I confessed the reason for visiting Andrézieux.



The house that today stands on the site of the original terminus of the country's first railway

"It's a funny thing about that railway," the hotel manager said. "You know, until a few years ago, no one really paid any attention to it. I was working one summer at the tourist office and mentioned the railway to a friend. And you know what he said? He said that a great-great-grandfather of his

drove the first train - from Andrézieux to St Etienne - and that he knew where the original station was."

"The original station?" I hazarded, worried that my whole day had been spent on the wrong railway line. "Well," he said, "it transpires that the original station was near the river and that a house was subsequently built on the site. We had a memorial plaque put up."

Next day, a drive to the town's tiny tourist office revealed quite a different Andrézieux - a town extended many times over the past 30 years, and based entirely on road and air transport. Three industrial estates produce all manner of goods from Renault gearboxes to biscuits; the airport has its own courier company and three passenger flights to Paris a day.

Better qualified now than St Etienne to describe itself as the town that "manufactures" every-

thing, Andrézieux prefers to sell itself as the "route centre to everywhere".

The overgrown railway station, though, looks destined to go the way of its predecessor, the terminus of the first railway line in France. This, it turned out, had been built a mile or so away from the later station and was demolished in the last century when the line was moved.

With new railways and stations opening all the time, no one thought to preserve it.

The plaque that now commemorates the station is above a doorway of the 19th-century house that replaced it. Funded in 1989 by the local tourist office, it says: "This is where France's first railway line was inaugurated in 1827, linking St Etienne and Andrézieux. It was used to transport coal from St Etienne to Andrézieux, where it was loaded on to flat-bottomed boats and taken by river to Roanne."

MARY DEJEVSKY  
Paris

Settling back to work after their long summer holiday, the French are being alerted by a barrage of leaflets and advertisements to a threat looming on the autumn horizon. On 18 October, at 2300 hours precisely, all the country's telephone numbers are set to change.

The reason is that, thanks to the proliferation of faxes, computer modems and mobile phones, France's 11-year-old system of eight-digit numbers is almost exhausted. The new system will have 10 digits, and - it is hoped - will provide sufficient capacity for the next 30 years.

As of 18 October, France will be divided into five regions, each of which will have its own prefix - from 01 for Paris and the surrounding Ile de France, to 05 for the south west - to be added to the existing numbers.

The change will remove one of the oddities of the earlier system, which required the prefix 16 when dialling between Paris and the provinces.

France Telecom is using the opportunity to make two further innovations, both required by European Union regulations. In the first, also due in October, France will become one of the last EU countries to adopt 00 as the prefix for dialling abroad. And next February the emergency number changes to 112.

Explaining the change yesterday, the Telecommunications Minister, Francois Fillon, said that the eight-digit system had been expected to last only 10 years.

The government anticipates a further demand for numbers after deregulation in 1998, when some subscribers may forgo France Telecom for competing companies. It also wants to offer the possibility of portable numbers for individual subscribers and, from 2001, to incorporate mobile phone numbers into the system.

France Telecom is setting up a helpline to help those who might be confused - but, of course, you need to know the number. For reference, it is 5211.

## HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE THISTLE HOTELS SHARE OFFER.

CONTACT YOUR STOCKBROKER OR CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SHARE SHOPS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFER AND SHAREHOLDER INCENTIVES.

City Deal Services  
0800 437437  
  
NatWest Stockbrokers  
0800 210212

Hargreaves Lansdown  
0500 404055  
  
ShareLink  
0345 665665  
  
YorkSHARE  
0800 736736

Midland Stockbrokers  
0800 210299  
  
Skipton Building Society  
0800 1380800



Or write to Thistle Hotels Share Offer: FREEPOST Lon 7338, London EC2B 2LJ

This advertisement has been issued by, and is the sole responsibility of, Thistle Hotels Plc and approved by Baring Brothers International Limited ("Baring") and Merrill Lynch International ("Merrill Lynch"), which are regulated by the SFA, solely for the purposes of section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986. Baring and Merrill Lynch are acting exclusively for Thistle Hotels Plc and will not be responsible to anyone else for providing the protections afforded to their customers nor for providing advice in relation to its proposed share offer. The value of shares can go down as well as up. Persons needing advice should consult a professional adviser. Stabilisation/SIP.



The moment you call Mercantile Credit you'll begin to appreciate the benefits of dealing direct. Cutting out the middleman, we can offer you an excellent value loan with no security or deposit required. You can choose repayment terms to suit you and your circumstances.

For a fast decision pick up the phone any day from 7a.m. to midnight, or post the coupon, and just see how it feels to be empowered.

Some of the things we offer you:

- Employer's name/address/business telephone number.
- Monthly income and major outgoings.
- Bank/Building Society and Credit Card details.
- Amount you require (from £500 - £15,000).

FROM  
15.9%  
APR

Call free  
QUOTING REFERENCE NO. 3648

0800 111 777

MERCANTILE CREDIT  
DIRECT PERSONAL LOANS

Please empower me today by sending me details of your direct personal loans. Send completed coupon to Mercantile Credit, PO Box 117, FREEPOST SEA 0521, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 2SP. No stamp required.

3648

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

BARCLAYS BANK PLC TRADING AS MERCANTILE CREDIT, REGISTERED OFFICE 24 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC2P 8AH, REGISTERED IN ENGLAND NO. 102167. BARCLAYS BANK PLC IS A MEMBER OF THE BARCLAYS GROUP OF COMPANIES. MERCANTILE CREDIT, FREEPOST, PO BOX 281, FREEPOST SEA 0521, CRAWLEY, WEST SUSSEX RH10 2SP. MERCANTILE CREDIT IS NOT A BANK. MERCANTILE CREDIT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE PROTECTION OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY. MERCANTILE CREDIT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT PROTECTOR PLAN. PREMIUM ON 1% MONTHLY REPAYMENT C100.11. TOTAL AMOUNT PREMIUM £7,701.29. ON WITHOUT PAYMENT PROTECTOR PLAN. MONTHLY REPAYMENT C100.11. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £1,000.00. APR IS FIXED AT 15.9%.

## international

# Hungary's Jews look proudly at a gilt-edged future

Budapest — As a boy, Gustav Zoltai kept a careful eye on what was going on above him whenever he attended services in Budapest's vast central synagogue. Hit by 27 bombs during the war, the building was in a perilous state and bits of loose plaster and slates were prone to come crashing down, albeit into an improvised safety netting.

"It was immensely sad to see such a magnificent building in such terrible condition," recalled Mr Zoltai, one of some 80,000 Hungarian Jews who survived the Holocaust. "Here was an important part of not only Hungarian, but world heritage and it was crumbling before our very eyes."

This afternoon, Mr Zoltai, head of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary, will join thousands of people expected to pack the synagogue — the largest in Europe — to mark its official re-opening after five years of renovation.

This time when he looks above him he will marvel at the giant chandeliers and the painstakingly restored ceiling panels. When he looks in the

**Adrian Bridge** reports on the \$9m restoration of Budapest's synagogue

front, he will be dazzled by the gold leaf on the 26ft high facade of the Ark of the Covenant in which will be placed the synagogue's original Torah scrolls.

"This building symbolises the survival and continuity of the Jewish people," said Mr Zoltai, whose period of office has coincided with the fall of communism and a revival of Jewish culture.

"It symbolises that Hitler came, but the Jewish people cannot be destroyed."

As a mark of the significance attached to the synagogue, both within and beyond Hungary, the ceremony will be attended by former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his wife, the Hungarian-born US Congressman Tom Lantos and Arpad Goncz, the Hungarian President. In addition to the 3,000 seated participants, the occasion could attract a further 5,000 on-lookers. "This may be a time of economic hardship in Hungary, but the restoration of this build-

ing sends out a positive signal of renewal," said Mr Zoltai. "It should enrich everyone's lives."

Originally opened in 1859, the synagogue was the focal point of Hungary's thriving pre-war Jewish community. As a result of its size — 53 metres long by 26m wide and 26m high — it could hardly be missed.

During the war, the synagogue served as a place of refuge for Jews trying to escape forced labour and, later, concentration camps. When the Budapest ghetto was set up in late 1944, the building ran along one of its boundaries. After the war, although damaged, it continued to be used by the Jewish community, but under the communists was left in rot.

Of Hungary's pre-war Jewish population of 800,000, only 80,000 survived the war, some 20 per cent of these as a direct result of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who established a number of safe houses for Jews in Budapest and

who disappeared mysteriously after the conflict.

Despite such losses, Hungary still boasted a relatively large Jewish community in comparison to those left elsewhere in central and eastern Europe. But while not persecuted for un-

der Hungary's post-war communist rulers, Jews preferred to keep a low profile.

The decision to restore the Dohany Street synagogue was taken two years after the fall of communism in 1989 when the Hungarian government agreed

to pay 80 per cent of the estimated 1.35 billion forint (\$9m) cost, with the remainder coming from the Hungarian Jewish community and international Jewish organisations.

The project has coincided with a steady revival of the Jew-

ish community in Hungary. With it, though, has come a return of more overt signs of anti-Semitism.

"To some extent anti-Semitism was suppressed during the communist era and its expression now can be seen as a nat-

ural part of the transition to democracy," said Rabbi Robert Fröhlich. "But it has not deterred our community. On the contrary, younger Jews are once again interested in exploring their Jewishness and in coming back to the fold."

**Good as new: Workers put the finishing touches to restoration work at Europe's largest synagogue, in Budapest. Photograph: Laszlo Balogh/Reuters**



**Energy  
CENTRE**

240 stores nationwide

- Experienced and knowledgeable staff

- Expert advice

- Wide choice from top brands

- Very competitive prices

- Lots of ways to pay†

- Specialists in gas and electric cooking and heating

- Free delivery nationwide\*

- 14-day exchange or money back guarantee on Value Plus products

- Complete installation service\*\*

- Comprehensive after sales service

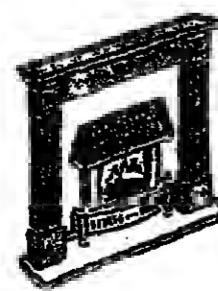
- Professional advice on central heating

- Backed by British Gas

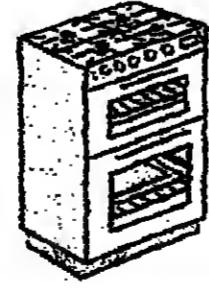
- For your nearest Energy Centre call free

0800 850 900.

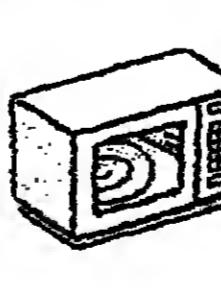
**Ever wished you'd bought your fire from the Energy Centre?**



UP TO £100  
TRADE-IN  
ON SELECTED  
FIRES



UP TO £150  
TRADE-IN  
ON SELECTED  
COOKERS



UP TO  
£30 OFF  
SELECTED MICROWAVES

Lots of special offers on cookers, fires, and microwaves. So come and see us now.

THE RIGHT ADVICE • THE RIGHT PRICE • THE RIGHT CHOICE

ALL OFFERS END 8 OCTOBER 1995. ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN OUR MERRY HILL SHOP. ALL PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. TICKET CREDIT TERMS AND BUY NOW PAY LATER ARE AVAILABLE SUBJECT TO STATUS WHEN YOU PAY 5% DEPOSIT AND SIGN A CREDIT AGREEMENT WITH PAYMENTS TO BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM BRITISH GAS ENERGY CENTRES, FREEPOST GV466, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, CV37 9ER. TYPICAL CREDIT EXAMPLE: BUT NOW PAY MAT 1997: NEW WORLD M/C GAS COOKER, CASH PRICE £353.99 (AFTER 270 TRADE-IN), INCLUDING DELIVERY AND CONNECTION, PAYMENT OF £20.32, COMMENCING 31ST MAY 1997. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £198.03, APR 29.5%. \*FREE DELIVERY WILL BE AVAILABLE WITHIN 50MILES UK, EXCLUDING CASH AND CARRY ITEMS. THE CLAIM FOR A REFUND OR EXCHANGE MUST BE MADE WITHIN 5 DAYS AFTER THE 14 DAY TRIAL. THE TRIAL STARTS FROM THE DAY OF DELIVERY. BRITISH GAS ENERGY CENTRES WILL COLLECT THE PRODUCT AT NO CHARGE BUT WILL NEITHER PAY FOR NOR ARRANGE DISCONNECTION. THE PRODUCT MUST BE RETURNED UNDAMAGED AND COMPLETE TO QUALIFY. FULL CONDITIONS AVAILABLE IN STORE. \*\*INSTALLATION IS AVAILABLE FOR AN EXTRA CHARGE.

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

**Japanese doomsday cult leader Shoko Asahara,** whose trial for the poison gas attack on the Tokyo subway last year resumes tomorrow, is to be confronted by his followers in court. Mr Asahara is accused of ordering followers to release the deadly nerve gas sarin on rush-hour subway trains in March 1995. The attack killed 11 people and made 5,500 ill.

The Aum Shinri Kyo sect's doctor, Ikuo Hayashi, and Mr Asahara's lieutenant Yoshihiro Inoue, both accused of taking part in the subway attack, will testify on the role Mr Asahara played in the gassing. *Reuter - Tokyo*

**Russia will return Liechtenstein's royal family archives** seized in the Second World War — in exchange for historical documents on the Bolsheviks' execution of Czar Nicholas II, officials said. *AP - Moscow*

**A 16-day strike by Zimbabwe's government workers** appeared over yesterday, with civil servants returning to their jobs but threatening to walk out again if their demands were ignored.

According to the state news agency, the strike cost the government at least 1 billion Zimbabwe dollars (£66m) in uncollected revenue. The government agreed to back down from its decision to fire workers during the strike and earlier raised its pay offer from 9 to 29 per cent. *AP - Harare*

**France plans a crackdown on the sexual abuse of children,** Justice Minister Jacques Toubon said. A package of measures curbing sex tourism, pornographic material and messages on the Internet involving children will be announced on 20 November. *Reuter - Paris*

**Hundreds of Vietnamese prostitutes, drug addicts, beggars and petty criminals** were detained in an overnight blitz on "social evils" in Ho Chi Minh City last week, an official in the city said.

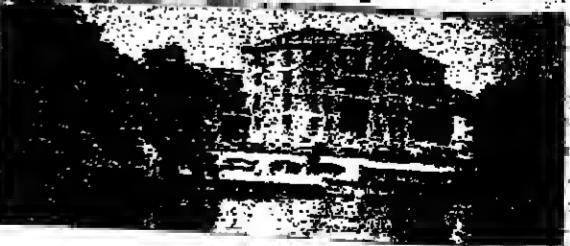
"Over 1,900 were rounded up. This is the biggest campaign in more than 20 years," said the official at the anti-social evils department said. *Reuter - Hanoi*

**South Pacific islands leaders decided to readmit France** in their annual discussions despite resentment about past French nuclear testing in the region. France was dropped as a dialogue partner by the 16-nation South Pacific Forum last year after it went ahead with a six-test series in French Polynesia. *AP - Majuro, Marshall Islands*

**Russia expelled two Swedes,** one of them a senior diplomat, for alleged spying, the Swedish news agency TT reported. Swedish authorities refused early comment on the affair. *Reuter - Stockholm*

**A species of pheasant thought to have become extinct** has been rediscovered in central Vietnam, the World Wide Fund for Nature said. WWF country representative David Hulse said villagers in the forests of Bach Ma National Park caught a male and a female Edwards's pheasant last week. The last known capture of a live Edwards's was in 1928. *Reuter - Hanoi*

## Hotel Breaks 2 nights for the price of 1



Starting this Saturday,  
enjoy two nights for  
the price of one with  
The Independent

**THE INDEPENDENT**

# Fickle friends at Labour's cocktail party

**L**ook at the company Labour is keeping these days. Or rather, hundreds of them sent representatives to Labour's love-in with business yesterday. Furthermore, we hear rumours that several high-profile companies are planning to abandon their traditional allegiance to the Conservatives to woo Mr Blair instead.

It has been a long march from the banner-led rallies to the boardroom. Gallons of gastric juices have been spilt on white wine and prawn cocktails along the way. At last business is willing, if not yet entirely convinced.

But Mr Blair should beware the temptation to trim his policies any further to suit some notional business palate. Labour's economic and industrial policies are broadly sensible and good for business. If industrial and financial leaders are still hostile to new Labour, it is because they are too cautious, or too prejudiced, or because they fear that old Labour is waiting in the wings. It would be a mistake for Labour to compromise on the few remaining policies that the business community actively dislikes (such as the minimum wage) just to boost business support further.

Official party policy, and the warm words emanating from Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, should be encouraging for business. Governments serve the private sector best if they promote steady growth and avoid the chaotic boom-bust

cycles that destroy so many good companies. Gordon Brown's statements about inflation targets, and the borrowing rules he would follow, are as promising as anyone could expect from an opposition party, and are close to the Government's official position too.

Where Labour has attempted to differentiate itself – on education and skills – business should have even more to hope for. As more and more economic activity depends on human capital rather than physical capital, businesses will benefit from any improvements to the skill base of the nation.

In Europe too, the absence of a belligerent Euro-sceptic tone (so far) within the Labour Party should be reassuring for exporters. In contrast, the Conservative right's antagonism to Europe could jeopardise British companies' ability to compete in a single European market. Even on red tape, that obsession of small businesses, Labour is making the right noises about avoiding new regulations, and refusing to turn back the clock on trade union legislation.

In spite of all this sensible stuff, many senior industrialists and financiers remain unconvinced. They may be less willing to criticise Labour openly these days, they may even want to shake hands with Mr Blair, or go to lunch with Mr Brown, to press their particular cause. Tony Blair is attracting the pals of power. But these are fickle friends. Behind the lunches and the lobbying

often lies a resolute Conservative supporter. Few senior business leaders are yet prepared to mark their cross beside the Labour candidate next year. Even at yesterday's much-heralded conference, big business leaders were out much in evidence; they had sent along their public relations people instead.

Faced with such persistent scepticism, new Labour may feel tempted to adapt a few other policies too, just to win a bit more private-sector support. That troublesome minimum wage, for example: just think what a fuss small firms and retailers make about it – it could be toned down a little further, or

delayed a little longer. Mr Blair should resist such pressures. A minimum wage, set at a sensible level, is essential protection for the poorest of workers and for the taxpayer's pocket. Moreover, many companies are gradually coming round both to the minimum wage and to the supposedly reviled Social Chapter.

Many of the business leaders who still resist Mr Blair's charming smile will never be persuaded by an opposition Labour Party. Perhaps they are too deeply prejudiced to associate red roses with anything other than thorns. Or perhaps they are just cautious and will wait

to be convinced by Labour in government. Many of our most senior industrialists are driven by self-interest, too; they include the so-called "fat cats", whom Labour plans to deprive of their executive share options. Personal financial circumstances, and the natural distaste that highly paid people have for the risk of higher taxes, may have more to do with their attitude to Labour than any of the party's broad economic policy.

But Mr Blair has one weak point that business leaders are right to worry about: the rest of his party. Most Labour MPs are a lot less anti-business than they were a decade ago – but they cannot yet be described as pro-business. Emerging from a tradition that viewed profit as the proceeds of exploitation, and competition as something nasty and distasteful, many still instinctively shy away from business and the market.

Even the business men and women

who do not fear a Labour government say they worry about a Labour landslide in case it encourages Mr Blair to accommodate his more left-wing colleagues. They are wrong: actually a landslide would give Blair the power to pursue his own agenda. But their anxiety is powerfully felt.

The Labour leader has a real and important task to persuade the rest of his party to embrace the pro-business attitude that he has genuinely adopted. Beyond that, he should be confident in his position, not daunted by the con-



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL  
TELEPHONE 0171-233 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-233 2435 / 0171-345 2435

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Why women have less time to spare

Sir: In her article about the New Man ("Where do all the New Men go?", 2 September) and in particular in quoting our data on the respective time budgets of full-time-working men and women, Polly Toynbee raises some profoundly important points, a couple of which deserve amplification.

First, there are indeed these very large differences in the discretionary free time available to working men and women, but why exactly? One hypothesis is that it reflects the intransigence of men. But we know from other work that male interest in many traditional female domains – for example in food and in the upbringing of their children – is increasing.

The reconciliation could be that there is "interest" without action, and that whilst it is no longer beneath male dignity to demand a particular brand of grocery product or to express a point of view on the education of their children, it is still beyond their capacities to do the shopping, attend the meetings with teachers or to supervise the homework.

Another possibility is alluded to by Polly Toynbee, namely that the wife/mother/worker is reluctant to cede control over a power base and is thus preventing the participation by eager, willing and able males in the domestic sphere.

Neither in our consulting work nor in our pure research have we had occasion to discover which of these hypotheses is closest to the truth. For policy purposes it is important that we should know.

A final point not really discussed by Polly Toynbee is the consequences of the double or triple loading of responsibilities on females. First, and most obviously, the rise in stress-related diseases among women indicates that the load is taking its toll.

Second, and less widely rehearsed, the people to whom the working mother does seem prepared to turn to relieve at least some of the pressure are the child's grandparents. Three-generation activities are increasing. We also know from our consulting work that the phenomenon of the "granny school pick-up" is developing apace.

The consequence is that there is a significant number of the current generation of children subject to extended family influence – just as at the time when our sociology was telling us that such a phenomenon was a thing of the past.

BOB TYRRELL  
Chairman  
The Henley Centre  
London EC4



"Question: a man has two dogs, I buy one dog, how many dogs does the man have?"

signing up 250 new customers a week in the industrial/business market.

As a result of the growth of ENG the historical "take-or-pay" contracts are a small percentage of sales. This makes Eastern Natural Gas different from its competitors, who are largely selling gas purchased before the fall in the spot market last year. ENG now has gas costs significantly below its major competitor.

What Chris Godsmark fails to grasp is the unique size and integrated nature of Eastern Group. Eastern is extremely well positioned to lead and effectively compete in the newly emerging gas markets.

J F DEVANEY  
Executive Chairman  
Eastern Group plc  
Ipswich

### Thousands of smokers stop

Sir: Dr Vivienne Nathanson of the BMA suggests I am "wriggling" on the notion of tobacco being addictive (Letters, August 29) and she refers to the BMA's own booklet for members which I instanced, now telling us that advice contained therein not to use the word "addiction" is only there because of the disheartening message the word conveys.

Yet within the booklet the text goes on to say that "a balance needs to be struck, acknowledging the potential difficulties of stopping as well as the ease with which many smokers manage to stop". It makes clear that 2,000 smokers a day give up.

I might add that the vast majority

of those smokers stop without the aid of patches, hypnotherapy, courses, books, or any other aid. This is why we say we find it hard to accept that with 11 million ex-smokers in this country, tobacco can be classed as addictive in the sense that most people understand the word.

In passing, I am out of BAT as Dr Nathanson appears to think.

CLIVE TURNER  
Tobacco Manufacturers' Association, London SW1

Sir: We deeply regret that pressure on Medical Research Council units to attract commercial funding has engendered a climate of contemplation let alone acceptance of funds from British American Tobacco ("PR head suspended in tobacco cash row", 29 August).

Sir Austin Bradford Hill and Sir Richard Doll, distinguished former directors of the MRC Biostatistics Unit, led the research team in the 1950s and 1960s whose work was seminal in defining the enormous harm to health caused by cigarette smoking.

From personal experience we endorse the praise reported by Nicholas Timmins of Mary Rice's singular contribution to public relations at the Medical Research Council. That her sound advice was not needed on this occasion will, we trust, be soon righted and her position vindicated by the council.

NICHOLAS E DAY  
WALTER R GILKS  
SHEILA M GORE  
ANTHONY L JOHNSON  
PAUL G SURTEES  
Cambridge

### Radio voice for the regions

Sir: While naturally pleased with the overall message of your leader "Let's turn up support for our national voice" (24 August), I was disappointed to read your reference to BBC local radio as an example of something the BBC

does badly.

Some seven million people listen to BBC local radio stations in England each week, making it one of the BBC's most popular radio services. Moreover, during the 1990s BBC local radio has focused on being a specialist service of comprehensive local news, current affairs information and discussion, enabling it to provide a truly distinctive and valued role in the local radio marketplace at a time when the commercial sector is predominantly offering music.

MARK BYFORD  
Director of Regional Broadcasting  
BBC  
London W1

Sir: I am happy to assure Jan Morris (letter, 3 September) that there is no foundation whatsoever in the suggestion that BBC Radio Cymru is to be "abolished".

I confirm, our commitment to Radio Cymru was undimmed last year when the station underwent a major relaunch in order to attract the widest possible range of Welsh speakers and to ensure its survival into the 21st century.

GERALIN TALARAN DAVIES  
Controller, BBC Wales  
Cardiff

### A real measure of prosperity

Sir: You argue (Business comment, 30 August) that the search for a better measure of national prosperity than GDP is futile.

You do not have to be much of an economist to know that GDP cannot tell the difference between good product and bad product, nor between warm and cold weather. If for example we gave up road accidents and their consequent costs, GDP would be lower and we would apparently be less prosperous. Similarly, if in a warm winter we spend less on fuel and woolies, the fall in GDP would indicate that we are the "poorer" for it.

You gave quite a lot of space to the Human Development Index in the 1996 Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Programme. This index incorporates life expectancy and education as well as GDP per head, and might well be thought a better indicator of real prosperity. Then you can have an income-disparity index, and a gender-disparity index. You can measure increase or decrease of natural capital resources. And so on.

No one of these measures is perfect or definitive, but attempts to refine them do not deserve your dismissive dismissal as "ridiculous" or "daff".

CHARLES MANTON  
E-mail:  
100565.2430@CompuServe.COM

### Shelter can still be indignant

Sir: I was pleased by Andreas Whittam Smith's recognition (article, 2 September) of Shelter's path-breaking role in the 1960s, and that the need for Shelter is still great to tackle the different housing problems of the 1990s.

However, I believe his arguments on the danger of government funding are too cynical and pessimistic. We welcome statutory funding wherever this is consistent with our aims and values. This money – inevitably and properly – comes with conditions that it must only be used for the activities defined in the contract. Yet this does not limit our freedom to use money given by our donors to campaign against government policies which we believe are wrong.

Last week Shelter took the Department of the Environment to the High Court over the withdrawal of housing for asylum seekers. We have campaigned to prevent changes to the homelessness laws which we believe to be damaging. We have strongly and publicly opposed cuts in investment in affordable housing and the withdrawal of benefit payments for both home owners and tenants.

Our experience is that government ministers and civil servants understand that we will not compromise our beliefs – and do not try to use statutory contracts as a lever to control what we say.

CHRIS HOLMES  
Director  
Shelter  
London EC1

### Paving the way for pedestrians

Sir: The most effective way of giving pedestrians priority over traffic (Letters, 3 September) is to combine the concepts of road crossing and road hump by paving intersections to the same level and with the same materials as the adjacent pavement.

A local authority having the vision to do this wherever possible, as part of a five- to 10-year strategy, to create a safe, convenient and continuous pedestrian network would enable all its citizens to "reclaim the streets". In particular, children, who are increasingly denied the opportunity of getting about on their own because of parental fears about vehicles driven at unsafe speeds, could have this basic freedom returned to them.

The findings of the recent Policy Studies Institute study *Speed Control and Transport Policy* suggests that the time loss to drivers on most journeys would be minimal.

DR MAYER HILLMAN  
The Policy Studies Institute  
London NW1

### Believers' duty to the young

Sir: Mr Stope-Roe (Letters, 3 September) makes a common error. He assumes that the start positions of "God" and "no God" can be treated as having the same value.

I think an analogy can be drawn with the belief that there is traffic moving along a road which children may wish to cross. If there really is no traffic, then it makes no difference whether children are taught to look both ways, or that they can stumble across the road looking at their boots. If in reality there is traffic they must be taught only the first option.

Those who believe in God cannot allow themselves the luxury of teaching the young that it makes no difference whether they believe or stumble on regardless.

J RICHARD PATER  
Kendal, Cumbria

### Jury rationing

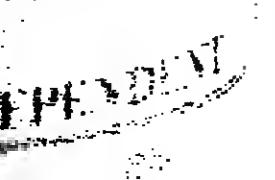
Sir: It might help Margaret Withers (letter, 3 September) and many others if jury service were rationed. I have been called four times, and am eligible for several more before being disqualified by age. The first occasion is instructive, leaving an admiring look for our legal system. Further periods can be a burden and could surely be more usefully and fairly distributed. As for eliminating the useful contribution which the over-70s could make, does not this amount to "selection"?

EILEEN BODEN  
Wembley Park, Middlesex

### American Milton

Sir: Peter Ackroyd's novel *Milton in America* ("Paradise rediscovered", 31 August) has John Milton fleeing England soon after the Restoration, taking ship to Puritan New England and founding a community called New Milton. He would not have needed to found New Milton, since Milton – named after him – was just getting off the ground. Milton, Massachusetts, was founded in 1662 and is now an attractive and affluent suburb of Boston.

ALICE H BIRD  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire



### Gas company is bubbling well

Sir: I refer to your article on Eastern Natural Gas ("Eastern set to lose millions in dash for gas", 2 September). In a fiercely competitive market Eastern Natural Gas (ENG) has achieved very significant growth, with turnover rising from £1m in 1992 to in excess of £200m by the end of September 1996. Since its inception five years ago, ENG has traded profitably. In 1996, we will also trade over a billion therms of gas.

We are now the largest independent gas supplier in the country and continue to seek new customers in every sector. We are

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.  
(Fax 0171-293 2036; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## analysis

# Scotland the thwarted

Tony Blair says he is committed to the early establishment of an Edinburgh parliament. But Ian Bell argues that he has changed his mind and now intends to sabotage home rule

**L**et us pretend, just for the sake of argument, that Tony Blair is not entirely trustworthy. Let us assume, just as a bit of fun, that the insultingly ridiculous: that the Labour leader could ever be capable of saying one thing while intending the opposite. Then let us consider devolution.

Scotland, we may guess, is not the word carved on Mr Blair's heart, but its future is a subject close to that magnificient organ, or so he says. The leader is committed to the speedy creation of a Scottish parliament for several reasons. First, it is the unfinished business of John Smith, his honoured predecessor. Secondly, it coheres with his ambitions for wider constitutional reform. Most important of all, a majority of Scots want it, and want it badly.

So far, so good. Scotland is not a place where Blair needs to win many hearts or (there are a few) minds. It is solidly Labour, if generally of the *ancien régime* variety. Given even a modest majority, Prime Minister Tony could impose a three-line whip on a one-line Scotland bill and encounter only modest protests from a few Tony Scots. (Sane Scottish Conservatives, it is worth pointing out, regard an Edinburgh parliament as the best chance available of restoring their fortunes.)

Threats of a rebellion from their lordships need not be taken seriously. Were things otherwise the entire Labour programme – the reform of the upper house in particular – would be at the mercy of the gerontocracy. No one believes that. Grumbling English Labour MPs would meanwhile be sent to trial by loyalty oath, much as Scottish "rebels" (guilty of rebelling in favour of party policy) have faced recently. In any case, England can have regional government if it wishes: what, precisely, is the beef?

And so, at the twitch of a magic wand, our prince could do just what he says he wants to do. The Opposition would oppose, because oppositions do, but democracy would be served, government improved, and the fabric of the British state given some overdue, near-

invisible mending. The Scots might even be grateful, though don't bank on it.

But none of this will happen, for reasons familiar and bizarre. First, Blair decided, without consulting his Scottish tribes (there's devolution for you), that a referendum was necessary. Shadow Scottish Secretary George Robertson had the very same notion, all on his own, but whether he had it before or after the leader made his decision is a point best left to parapsychologists.

For good measure, Blair announced that a matter this weighty deserved two questions, not one, three, or 33. The proposal that a Scottish parliament be permitted to vary the rate of tax by up to 3p in the pound was so important – unlike, say, Chancellor Brown's first budget – that it required its own question. All this, said loyalists confident of the public's supreme indifference to the

It is one of those arguments that sounds valid until you ask yourself why no one thought of it before. The simple answer, dishonest or not, is that some politicians never, ever do anything so stupid. There have been no referenda on VAT, Trident, the monarchy, MPs' pay or anything else about which the public might turn out to be a touch sceptical. Everyone accepts that governments need revenue; everyone wishes they would find someone else to supply it. In any political sense the tax question is a dumb question.

We are supposed to believe that Blair thinks otherwise. He promises he will campaign "personally" (there's another way?) for the so-called "double yes". He even thinks he can deliver that outcome. Remember, Tony Blair never promises what he cannot deliver, and he never says anything he does not mean. He said so.

**At the twitch of a magic wand, our prince could do just what he says he wants to do. But he won't**

workings of the constitution, would "entrench" devolution. Naturally, it would also confront the Tories.

The trouble is, they don't sound too confounded. Some have had the gall to suggest that Blair has acquired cold feet, that he doesn't want the tax power, may not even want the parliament, and that it was no accident that he confused the issue in masterful style. Worse, a significant portion of the Scottish Labour Party has been drawn to the same, shamefully disloyal conclusion, belatedly realising that shadow chancellor Brown has a thing about the tax.

Given his remarkable candour in all things, and despite the ill-feeling the issue has caused in the party, it is hard to understand why Blair does not agree, but he does not. Last week, however, he stated candidly that if the Scottish Labour executive overruled the two-question plan he would overrule them. (How much devolution can one party stand?) He didn't actually say why, but later he made a few telephone calls, just to be on the safe side.

Thus invigorated, the executive met at Stirling at the weekend to get themselves out of the hole their leader had hewn. Then they commenced to dig,

Back among the rebels, there is no such inspiring confidence. Having accepted the principle of a referendum (see how they bounce), they have been working throughout the summer to ensure that it contains only one simple question. After all, how many Scots remain who have not heard Labour say it wants an Edinburgh parliament with taxation powers? Vote for the parliament and you vote for the tax.

Given his remarkable candour in all things, and despite the ill-feeling the issue has caused in the party, it is hard to understand why Blair does not agree, but he does not. Last week, however, he stated candidly that if the Scottish Labour executive overruled the two-question plan he would overrule them. (How much devolution can one party stand?) He didn't actually say why, but later he made a few telephone calls, just to be on the safe side.

Thus invigorated, the executive met at Stirling at the weekend to get themselves out of the hole their leader had hewn. Then they commenced to dig,

and kept on digging until they struck compromise. That, at least, is what they are now calling it, mostly because they have no choice.

It is a brilliant idea. (If you happen to be Tory). It is typically Labour (if you happen to be a Nationalist). It is moving evidence of how rebellious some people can be when their principles are at stake (but not if they are members of Labour's Scottish executive). The two-question plebiscite remains: Blair wins. But there is a twist. Now a new Scottish parliament must on no account use its tax powers until it has called yet a further referendum.

Which is to say that Blair and his colleagues, desperate for devolution, have erected five (count them) hurdles in the way of a tax-raising Scottish parliament: a vote in a general election, a referendum question on the principle of home rule, a vote on taxation, elections to a Scottish parliament, and then another referendum on the use of the tax power, just to make doubly sure it never becomes an issue in anyone's mind.

This mind, for one, is to be entered for an Arts Council bogging award. Blair has called the executive's decision "mature", leaving us to wonder what he really thought of the policy established by John Smith. Once there was a Scottish Question; now there is a clutch of quibbles and John Major is making the most of it.

The constitution is one of the Prime Minister's pet issues, one which (he imagines) helped him win the last general election. In Glasgow, for a fundraising dinner this week, he was prompt with his alliterative insults, describing Labour's plans as a "steeplechase of stupidity". He refused to say if the Tories would accept devolution should Scots vote for it (Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth has said they would) but managed a fairly effective demolition of a "botched" scheme. Given the Tories' standing in the polls (15 per cent) that amounts, however, to little more than harmless fun, at least in Scottish terms.

Then again, as both Major and the Scottish National Party realise, Labour's executive has done their work for them. A gift horse is running in the stupidity stakes. In what is fast becoming to resemble a repeat of the Seventies, the Nationalists are gaining ground while Labour tailors, having paled on six points in the latest System 3 poll – a poll taken, moreover, before last weekend's debacle in Stirling. Labour are still 19 points clear (48 to the SNP's 29) but the Nationalists could not have asked for a better time, or excuse, to stage one of their periodic revivals.

It is possible, just about, to describe this comedy as a thing of simple errors. Certainly the fact that the fate of the entire devolution campaign, not to mention the credibility of the Scottish Labour Party, was left in the hands of one prospective

parliamentary candidate looks like a fairly big mistake in anyone's terms. Nevertheless, it was Mohammad Sarwar, the candidate for Govan, who alone cooked up the baffling compromise that Robertson and Blair were only too delighted to accept. What does that tell us?

At the very least, it says very little for the fabled efficiency of New Labour, never mind its grasp of political realities. More importantly, it raises some fairly profound questions about Blair's leadership. If this was an example of astuteness, Labour supporters in Scotland would probably risk being spared further outbreaks of cleverness. If this was a consequence of his

vaunted toughness, the people in his slipstream might begin to ask themselves just where toughness is leading them.

But there is a bigger worry, and one that is now commonplace in Scotland: that despite

too ridiculous, too uncharacteristically ham-fisted, to be accidental. Blair, many are concluding, has set himself to sabotage serious devolution.

He has probably succeeded. Given the hurdles, it seems

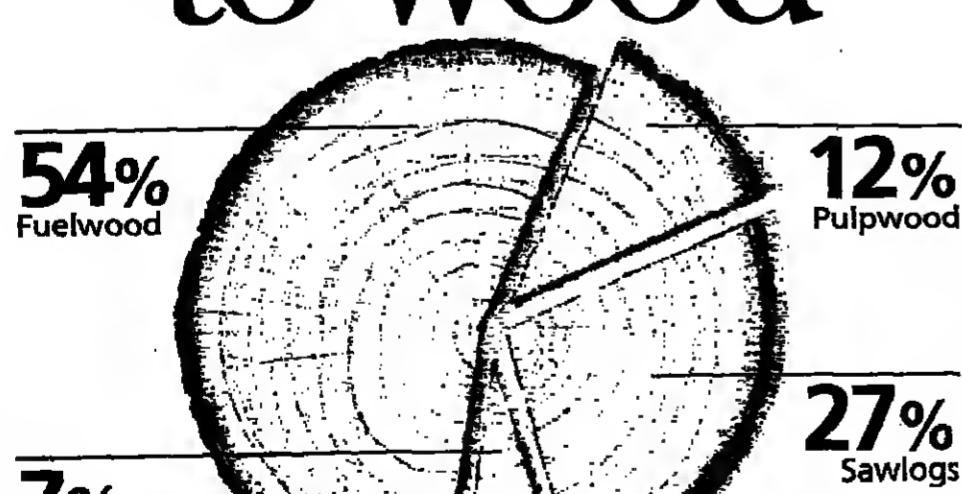
the weeks and months leading to the next general election. As George Robertson has been discovering this week, even Labour's famously loyal Scottish supporters have their limits. A plan that is near-impossible to explain, far less to enact, is a very bad plan.

Understandably enough, opponents have taken to describing this as a dog's breakfast. In reality, the alimentary throughput of Fido's *petit déjeuner* bears a closer resemblance to what Blair has deposited on Scotland's doorstep. The pup has now been sold. Next stop: Downing Street.

Ian Bell is a columnist with the *Scotsman*.



## We're good to wood



Only 12% of the World's production of wood is used in papermaking.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION DIAL THE FAX BACK NUMBER 0839 393036  
Calls are charged at 35p per minute cheap rate and 45p per minute at all other times  
OR WRITE TO: 1 RIVENHALL ROAD, WESTLEA, SWINDON, SN5 7RD  
TELEPHONE: 01793 679228 FAX: 01793 886162

Issued by the NEWSPRINT & NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

## A coming-together of ensembles

The way people write menus evolves as fast as the way cooking evolves, perhaps even faster.

I don't mean the way people actually use handwriting on menus, although even that changes from time to time. In modern days, it has become more and more usual to employ an angular italic script on menus, which looks ever so calligraphic but does make the deciphering of the menu that much harder, as all the tall letters tend to resemble each other, as do the small ones at a lower level, and the handwriting ends up as an LS Lowry drawing of a line of people walking into the wind. This means that when you find something on the menu masquerading as "purrid wallet", it takes a moment to interpret it as "panfried mullet", or indeed to decode "Tal soup with logarithms" as "Thai soup with lemongrass".

But the actual language of menus is changing as well as their handwriting. Not just in the introduction of words like "panfried", which is a puzzling word, because you can't fry

things anywhere but in a pan, so why not just say "fried"? Nor in the gradual invasion of words like "coulis" and "sabayon", which have come from some dictionary known only to chefs and menu-writers and mean nothing to the ordinary public. No, I don't mean just those foolishnesses. I mean the way in which dishes are increasingly being given personalities of their own.

I first noticed it in the addition of the phrase "with its", as in "Roast guinea fowl with its accompanying chestnut and sage sauce". Why do they always say "with its accompanying chestnut and sage sauce"? Why not just say "Roast guinea fowl with chestnut and sage sauce"? It means the same and is shorter. Why bother to say with its accompanying sauce, as if the guinea fowl had turned up at the kitchen that night with a suitcase full of its own sauce? It sounds like one of those announcements they make at grand balls, when the footman takes a name and says loudly: "The Archbishop of Canterbury, with Mrs Carey!", as if the wife or part-

"Roast guinea fowl with its accompanying chestnut and sage sauce". They have now started saying things like "A duo of roast guinea fowl and chestnut and sage sauce", or even "A rendezvous of roast guinea fowl and chestnut and sage sauce". You must have noticed it too. Words like "duo" and "rendezvous" are all over the menus these days, and if they don't have sexual overtones, I'll eat my hat with a duo of its scarf.

There was a piece of designer luggage. Or perhaps it is like one of those notices you get outside French towns which are trying to tempt passing tourists to stay, and which list the attractions right there on the town sign. "Ilsy-les-Deux-Tours - ses moulins, son château, son marché". Ilsy-les-Deux-Tours, with its accompanying mills and castle and market ... Roast guinea fowl, with its fabulous chestnut and sage sauce ...

In any case, I now realise that the menu habit is different from the French town habit, because it is definitely developing sexual overtones. No longer do people say

paint and then pebbledashed. But now all the painting and decorating and dressing and tailoring is over. The steaks have been trimmed. The portions have been dressed. Let the partnerships take place. Let the bams be read. Let the duos and the rendezvous break out all over the menus. Let mango cohabit with coriander. Let tomato lie down with mint. Let lime go with lemongrass ...

Do you think I am going too far? But don't forget that the language of the menu has always been partly sexual. Don't forget that things have always been served (an ambiguous word in itself) on a bed of other things. Don't forget that chefs are getting younger and younger and that this must be reflected sooner or later in the menu. The fact that people like me now start blushing as soon as they start reading modern menus will not affect progress. I shall just have to get used to it. I suppose I should be grateful that it is only duos and rendezvous appearing on our menus, and not *meunier à trois* or orgies.



Miles Kington

was a piece of designer luggage.

Or perhaps it is like one of those notices you get outside French towns which are trying to tempt passing tourists to stay, and which list the attractions right there on the town sign. "Ilsy-les-Deux-Tours - ses moulins, son château, son marché". Ilsy-les-Deux-Tours, with its accompanying mills and castle and market ... Roast guinea fowl, with its fabulous chestnut and sage sauce ...

In any case, I now realise that the menu habit is different from the French town habit, because it is definitely developing sexual overtones. No longer do people say



# obituaries/gazette

## Lord Amery of Lustleigh

Perhaps the most important thing to remember about Julian Amery - son of a secretary of state for India, son-in-law of a prime minister and himself a long-serving Conservative minister - is the largeness of his personality. Amery's exuberance concealed a sharp intellect, but it was a vital part of the nature of a man of exceptional physical courage, and devout political commitment. The exuberance showed itself in a robust sense of fun. I will illustrate it.

During the Conservative Party conference of 1972 I found myself at the same (large) lunch party as Julian Amery. In those far-off days security was a far less compelling consideration than it is now, and ministers, journalists and others would commonly stroll back from the Imperial Hotel to the Winter Gardens, for the afternoon debates. On this occasion, however, a large group of trade-union demonstrators had gathered along the sea front to demonstrate against, and to heckle, Tories. The police had erected crash barriers along the route to hold the mob back. Ministers and others hurried to the Gardens, for the most part with their heads down, behind this protection. Not, though, Julian Amery.

I was a couple of yards behind Amery when, having finished his port, he emerged from the Imperial, a large cigar between the fingers of his right hand. He contemplated the demonstrators. He transferred the cigar to the other hand and walked slowly down the line shaking hands and jocosely greeting demonstrators in that deep and plummy voice. The police were worried but, by the end of his promenade, Amery was being cheered, in a friendly and amused fashion, by the demonstrators. There you have the man.

Harold Julian Amery was born in 1919. He came from a formidable political family, for the Amerys had been close allies of the Chamberlains when the latter family ruled Birmingham. The alliance was surrendered when, in the Commons debate on Norway in May 1940 Julian's father, L.S. (Leo) Amery, pronounced the death sentence on the government headed by Neville Chamberlain, using Cromwell's deadly words

"You have sat here too long for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!"

With such a heritage, and such a father, it was hardly surprising that young Julian eventually turned to politics, bringing with him the old Chamberlain-Amery tradition of faith in the Empire and belief in free trade - though it is only right to say that Julian later became an enthusiastic advocate of British membership of the Common Market.

But before politics, Amery enjoyed a colourful career - one

is tempted to say a series of colourful careers. Between 1939 and 1940 he served as an attaché on British missions to Belgrade, Ankara, Sofia and Bucharest. He enlisted as a sergeant in the RAF at the end of these missions, but was rapidly transferred to the Army, with the rank of Captain, and sent to the Middle East.

Another rapid transfer sent him to Yugoslavia, to liaise with the partisans fighting Germany. In 1944 he was in Albania, working with the Albanian Resistance. At the end of that tour of duty he was sent as the Prime Minister's personal representative to Chiang Kai-shek. He always maintained that Eton and Balliol had been a perfect preparation for such a splendid series of adventures: "You know, dear boy, that Eton and Oxford are other-worldly places, and so were the places in which I spent my war."

He fought and lost Preston North in 1945, but won the seat in 1950, the year in which he married Harold Macmillan's daughter Catherine. His long and variegated ministerial career began in 1957, when he became Parliamentary Under-Secretary for War. A year later, in December 1958, with the same rank, he moved to the Colonial Office. In 1960 he became Secretary of State for Air (essentially a military posting) and in 1962 Minister for Aviation (essentially a civil one).

The Conservatives having lost the general election, Amery's acquaintance with the rigours and delights of office for the moment ceased, and he was forced out of the House of Commons by the electorate in

the Tory debacle that was the general election of 1966. A by-election in Brighton Pavilion (where the Macmillan connection had greatly helped him in gaining the Conservative nomination) in March 1969 brought him back to the House and, after Edward Heath achieved his famous victory in 1970, Amery returned to government as Minister for Housing and Construction.

The appointment was judged by most observers to be a surprising one. First, Amery's flamboyant image did not seem to fit in the new technological age supposedly issued in by the new Prime Minister. And, second, a domestic ministry did not seem to suit either his character or his interests.

He was, in truth, much happier when he shifted to the Foreign Office in 1972. After the Conservative defeat of 1974 he never again held office, nor did he expect to. He remained in the Commons until 1992, when he was promoted to the Lords, as Lord Amery of Lustleigh, in John Major's Dissolution Honours.

But he was never, as so many politicians passed over have been, embittered. He threw himself with zest into the role of a hackbencher, intervening, in that great, rumbling voice of his, on a wide variety of subjects but, increasingly, in support of the rebel Rhodesian government headed by Ian Smith, thus showing he was his imperialist father's son to the core. On Rhodesia Amery showed intellectual rather than political perspicacity. When Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister in 1979 his first major foreign challenge was the conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in Lusaka in the autumn, where the main topic was to be Rhodesia (the government of which was now headed by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, with Smith in close attendance).

Rhodesia was the main sub-jury in the adjournment debate of 25 July, the last occasion for discussion of the matter before the summer recess. The Prime Minister took great care over her speech seeking to placate both those who wanted to bring Muzorewa and Smith down, and the many on the Conservative back benches who

sympathised with them. She succeeded, with one exception.

Amery alone in the debate

divined instantly that she had decided to abandon the Muzorewa-Smith government and, in a bitter and powerful speech, he castigated her for so doing. It was to no avail.

But Amery was much more than a politician. He was an omnivorous reader, and enthusiastic writer, and was possessed of a powerful mind. More people meeting him for the first time saw him glass in hand and cigar in mouth sitting happily with cronies in the Carlton, White's or the Beefsteak could scarcely credit the fact that they were seeing an enthusiastic and skilful skier, a hearty walker, and a man who rarely let a day go by without a long and vigorous swim. "You see, old boy," he would say, "the exercise burns off the drink and the tobacco." The formula seemed to be a successful one.

He was a considerable man,

much more so than his style led

observers to perceive. He was also kind and very entertaining. But if there was one word which I would use to describe him (and one that, I feel sure, he would like) it would be a patriot. Julian Amery was a patriot of the old school, to the very depths of his being.

Patrick Casgrave

**Harold Julian Amery, politician:** born London 27 March 1919; MP (Conservative) for Preston North 1950-66, Brighton Pavilion 1969-92; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Financial Secretary, War Office 1957-58; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office 1958-60; PC 1960; Secretary of State for Air 1962-64; Minister of Public Building and Works 1970; Minister for Housing and Construction, Department of the Environment 1970-72; Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1972-74; created 1972 Baron Amery of Lustleigh; author of *Sons of the Eagle* 1948. The Life of Joseph Chamberlain vols 1 1901-3; At the Height of His Power 1951, v and of Joseph Chamberlain and the Tariff Reform Campaign 1969. Approach, March 1973; married 1950 Catherine Macmillan (died 1991; one son, three daughters); died London 3 September 1996.

A patriot of the old school: Amery campaigning in the Brighton Pavilion by-election, March 1969

## Robert Brown



Brown: thoroughly decent

It is rare for civic heads to become members of the House of Commons - Alderman Sir Lesley Lever, Lord Mayor of Manchester at the time United crashed in Munich, became MP for Ardwick; Sir Myer Galperin, Lord Provost of Glasgow, acquired Shettleston and became a marvellously peppery Chairman of Ways and Means in the Commons. But it is quite unique for an MP, and an ex-minister to boot, to leave the House of Commons at the normal retirement age, return to local government, and on merit become Lord Mayor of his City. Yet, this is precisely what Robert Brown achieved when his discerning Tyneside colleagues - and none know their own better - made him Lord Mayor of Newcastle in 1994.

In his maiden speech in April 1966 Brown described how

the people of Tyneside are regarded as "Scandinavians" the world over, not as people from Newcastle, Gateshead, South Shields or Tynemouth. "Geordie" is a regional term quite as specific as "cockney". The song "Blaydon Races" is almost regarded as a local national anthem. Is there any honourable member who will confess his lack of culture by saying that he has not heard of "Blaydon Races"? The identification of people on both sides of the river with Newcastle United Football Club, of considerable former fame, is undeniable.

His lean frame occasionally to be seen lurking ominously in Hollywood productions shot in Europe, like John Frankenheimer's *The Train* (1964) and Woody Allen's *Love and Death* (1975). Howard Vernon's villains usually embodied austere Prussian monomania rather than simple malice, as evidenced by his Professor von Braun in Jean-Luc Godard's *Alphaville* (1965). As the technolo-

gy of 20 years as his colleague, often sitting next to him on the green benches, the harshest words that ever passed between us were when I opined that Jackie Milburn - Bob's "oor Jackie" - and the Robles Brothers were perhaps not quite the best inside trio the world had ever seen. The Magpies had no more faithful supporters in their great days, and in their less than great days, than Bob Brown.

He was the son of William Brown, an engineer, and went to local schools and to Rutherford College before being apprenticed at the age of 16 as a plumber to the Newcastle Gas Company in 1937. Joining the Royal Signals in 1942, he saw service in the Middle East and in the Italian campaign. Years later when he presided over the Army Board he said that he chucked at how a one-stripe 20-year-old acting lance-corporal (unpaid) in the Signals could chair a meeting of distinguished generals. "And they take it so well."

On demobilisation he went back and trained further as a gas fitter, being promoted to Inspector in 1949. For 16 years he was the secretary and agent of the Newcastle West Constituency Labour Party, serving

Mr Michael Heseltine: I did not put this question specifically, but perhaps the honourable gentleman will say

and his best film role was also his most sympathetic (although under a perverse constraint), in Jean-Pierre Melville's *Le Silence de la mer* (1949). Based on the celebrated wartime novel by Verlaine, it centred on Vernon as Werner von Elzenra, a cultured and sensitive Francophile German officer billeted during the Occupation in an anti-Semitic French household with whom he desperately wants to be friends, and whose animosity he spends most of the film attempting imploringly to overcome while they respond with the silent treatment.

Born in Switzerland to a Swiss father and an American mother, and raised in the United States, he returned to Europe to finish his schooling in Nice and Berne. Initially destined for the hotel trade, he worked in Egypt and then

Zurich, before moving to Paris to become an actor, where he was at first a tap dancer, performing at the Casino de Paris and Le Palace.

During the Occupation he supported himself by giving dancing lessons and in 1945 made his film debut in a resistance drama, *On Ama Viendra ce Soir*. To his distaste he was immediately typecast as a Nazi, although it was in one such role

councillor he had played a leading part in the late 1950s in planning the Scotswood Bridge across the Tyne. He also displayed his special interest in the development of motorways.

Shortly after his election he volunteered himself as one of Harold Wilson's "young eagles" to defend the Government against left-wing critics after the cuts announced on 20 July 1966, a watershed day in the life of the Wilson government. On return to power in February 1974 Wilson appointed him as Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, as which he took a particular interest in the problems of homelessness. In May that year he pointed out that in 1970 there were 350,000 houses completed including 180,000 in the public sector, while by 1973 the total was down to 240,000 with only 107,000 in the private sector.

After the second election of 1974 Brown was given the job for which he will be remembered, as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Army. In circumstances of cuts and where Labour ministers and service wives and the policy towards married quarters. He recognised that the special conditions and demands of a service career often posed considerable difficulties. A serviceman has to be housed near

his place of work to meet the requirements of the Service which often involve long and irregular hours and the need to be readily available on standby.

When most people leave the House of Commons that is the end of their public life. Brown, who was a man totally without self-importance, threw himself back into local government helping the disadvantaged and doing as much as he could to ameliorate the effects of the decline in shipbuilding. That his colleagues made him Lord Mayor was a tribute to a thoroughly decent man supported by a wonderful wife, Marjorie, of more than 50 years.

Tam Dalyell

**Robert Crofton Brown, engineer, trade-union official and politician:** born Scotland, 16 May 1921; MP (Labour) for Newcastle West 1966-83, Newcastle North 1983-87; Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport 1968-70; Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Security 1974; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army 1974-79; Lord Mayor of Newcastle 1994-95; married 1945 Marjorie Hogg (one son, one daughter); died Newcastle 3 September 1996.

+ Kenneth Riches

**David Scott, priest:** born 19 June 1924; ordained deacon 1952, priest 1953; Assistant Chaplain, London University 1958-59; Permanent Curate Old Bramby 1959-66; Vicar of Boston, Lincolnshire 1966-75; Canon and Prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral 1971-89; Rural Dean of Holland East 1971-75; Archdeacon of Stow 1975-89; Vicar of Hackthorn with Cold Harworth 1975-89; Priest-in-charge of North and South Carlton 1978-89; Chaplain to the Queen 1983-94; married (one son, one daughter); died 31 August 1996.

Richard Chatton

**Mario Lipet (Howard Vernon), actor:** born Baden, Switzerland 15 July 1914; died 24 July 1996.

in *Jericho* (1946) that he caught Melville's eye.

Melville called upon Vernon again to lend atmosphere to *Bob le Flambeur* (1956) and *Léon Morin, prêtre* (1961), and he played a professional assassin in Fritz Lang's last film, *Die Tausend Augen des Dr Mabuse* (1960). In 1962 he starred in *Gritos en la noche*, a visceral medical horror thriller in which he was the awful Dr Orloff (the

title of the film in America), an indefatigable plastic surgeon he was to play several more times in the course of over 35 more films with director Jesus Franco over the next 25 years, including a couple of appearances as Count Dracula in *Dracula contra Frankenstein* (1972) and *A Filha de Dracula* (1972).

More upmarket productions in which he later appeared in-

cluded the Jean-Marie Straub-Danielle Huillet film *Der Tod des Empedokles* (1987), shot on the slopes of Mount Etna, and as one of the many peculiar neighbours in the instant cult classic of the early Nineties, *Delicatessen* (1991).

John Wisden

**ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS**  
Prince Andrew, Duke of York, a dinner at the Royal College of Opticians, attended by the Queen, 12 September; London EC2. The Prince Royal opens the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 13 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new National Gallery, London, 14 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 15 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 16 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 17 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 18 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 19 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 20 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 21 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 22 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 23 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 24 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 25 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 26 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 27 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 28 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 29 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 30 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 31 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 32 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 33 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 34 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 35 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 36 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 37 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 38 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 39 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 40 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 41 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 42 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 43 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 44 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 45 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 46 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 47 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 48 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 49 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 50 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 51 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 52 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 53 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 54 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 55 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 56 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 57 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 58 September; Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, attend the opening of the new Royal Opera

The Ven  
David  
Scott

Economic view: Labour's fiscal beauty contest	23
Market report: Punters bank on Schroders	22
Investment column: BBA shows its fibre	18

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

# business<sup>19</sup>

THE INDEPENDENT • Thursday 5 September 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

## Morgan asks court to freeze fund manager's personal assets

JILL TREANOR  
and NIC CICUTTI

**Morgan Grenfell Asset Management** last night moved to freeze the assets of Peter Young, its suspended fund manager, as part of its investigation into suspected irregularities in three funds in which £1.4bn is invested.

An injunction was taken out in conjunction with Royal Bank of Scotland, trustees to the two funds he ran. Morgan Grenfell declined comment when asked if this should be taken as an allegation that Mr Young was suspected of using the funds' assets for personal gain or fraud.

Lawyers acting for Morgan Grenfell have also engaged specialist financial investigators to help their inquiries into the mystery surrounding the three European investment funds.

A senior executive from Network Security Management, a subsidiary of Hambros, the merchant bankers, called yesterday at the home of Mr Young, to arrange a meeting with him.

Allan McDonald, deputising managing director of NSM, confirmed that his firm was working on behalf of Morgan Grenfell.

He added that NSM specialised, among other things, in fraud detection. But he said: "I wouldn't read anything into that."

Neighbours at Mr Young's newly built, luxury detached home in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, said they were mystified by what had happened to their latest arrival in their small exclusive close.

One person, who refused to be named, said Mr Young had barely moved into his £400,000 home a few weeks earlier. "He seems like quite a nice person but we haven't seen anything of him or his children yet, so it's hard to make a judgement."

Mr Young left home at 10.30am yesterday with his wife. He said he had been told not to make any comments about the Morgan Grenfell affair.

The home, which has a three-car garage, remained empty throughout the day. There were signs that its occupants have only recently moved in. Electrical work to the gates is still not completed and the lawn appears to have been freshly planted.

It is thought that regulators are focusing on a number of mysterious unlisted companies, many of them Norwegian, in which Mr Young had invested money belonging to some 90,000 investors.

Enquiries among eight Norwegian specialist analysts yesterday failed to find any who recognised the names of some of the firms in which Mr Young had invested.

The European Growth Trust staked 1.31 per cent and 1.00 per cent respectively of its assets in Norwegian companies Sytemirwest and Waferprof Holding, neither of which rang any bells with the specialists.

One market source speculated that Mr Young could have been using some of the unlisted firms to buy his investments in other companies, which had become unprofitable after stocks in the companies plunged this year. Another said: "There are some rather odd companies here. I am not sure if the fund is the instrument of the victim."

Among the recognised Norwegian quoted companies, the share price of Sydeco Group in which the European Capital Growth Fund had invested 8.17 percent of its assets, had fallen to around 45 crowns yesterday from levels around 225 crowns in late February.

Dealing in the funds, suspended to investigate "potential



Potential frozen asset: Peter Young's £400,000 house in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, which he bought recently

irregularities in the valuation of unquoted securities", was due to resume today.

But in an effort to instil investor confidence in the funds Deutsche Bank, which owns Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, bought up many of these unlisted securities at a price estimated to have cost the German banking giant at least £150m.

Mr Young, 38, ran two of the funds suspended at the start of

the week - Morgan Grenfell European Growth Trust, a unit trust, and Dublin-listed Morgan Grenfell European Capital Growth Fund. The third fund, Morgan Grenfell Europe, is run by Stewart Armer, who has not been suspended and is not under investigation.

Carnegie, the broker cited in European Growth Trust annual report as having taken 10 per cent of the broking commissions

paid out by the fund last year, declined to comment.

It also emerged that Ice Securities, hired to value some of the securities in the fund, had been visited by the regulator. Christopher Woodgate, chairman of the eight partner boutique, said it had been hired in July to value "certain assets".

Meanwhile, all large fund managers are checking and tightening up their control sys-

tems this week, according to senior executives in the industry who said the Morgan Grenfell problem underlined the need for perpetual vigilance.

The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds welcomed Morgan Grenfell's promise that no investor will lose money. Philip Warland, the chief executive, said: "The reputation of the industry is jealously guarded; no unit trust in-

vestor has ever lost any money as a result of irregularities."

However, many of the 90,000 investors in the two unit trusts and the fund at the centre of the investigation have been flooding their financial advisers with worried calls. Sean Kingston, a director of Hargreaves Lansdown, a Bristol financial adviser, who is an investor in the funds, said he had taken more than 100 calls from "extremely concerned" investors.

Main photograph: David Rose

## P-reg car sales fail to reach 500,000 mark

CHRIS GODSMARK  
Business Correspondent

Sales of P-registration cars in August look set to show a disappointing increase of little more than 1 per cent over last year, when the industry announces the final figures today. The statistics will also show a bad month for the traditional market leaders, Ford and Vauxhall, and a continuing boom in sales of imported cars.

Registration data, which was being collated last night, suggests that unless manufacturers dump thousands of cars on dealers at the last minute, around 475,000 new cars were sold last month, compared with 469,000 in August 1990. Manufacturers had predicted a much more buoyant August, with a forecast rise of around 5 per cent to 490,000.

The figures dash hopes that sales could surge through the 500,000 barrier for the first time since 1989. They also suggest the recent improvement in consumer confidence has not been sufficient to bring a sustained boost to the car market.

Ford had a particularly bad month with its share of the total market dropping to 15.5 per cent. Vauxhall's slice was just 13 per cent, with industry sources suggesting demand for the Vectra, the replacement for Cavalier, had not matched expectations. However, Rover's sales brought its share to around 10 per cent.

By far the biggest winner in August was Volkswagen, which

registered 27,000 cars, grabbing 6 per cent of the entire market. VW has seen huge interest from private buyers in its Polo "super mini".

Alan Pulham, from the National Franchised Dealers Association, said: "If you price a product right, people will buy it, and Volkswagen are definitely pricing their cars right.

They've corrected the main problem they had, which was that their cars were perceived as being too expensive."

Yesterday industry analysts suggested the outcome was not as bad as it seemed, partly because August this year included one less selling day than last year. "It still gives us the second biggest August ever. That takes us over 1988's total," said Mr Pulham.

Another factor was the lower number of so-called "pre-registrations". Manufacturers can inflate the statistics in the last few days of the month by registering cars to dealers, so they count as a "sale" in the data base before they find a genuine buyer.

On the penultimate day of August 1995, 45,000 cars were registered, 10 per cent of the month's total, though most had not probably been "bought".

"In a way it's a more rational August this year," said Jay Nager, an expert on the car market with Marketing Systems.

"The sales look more genuine this year. There's some evidence that Ford and Vauxhall have cut back on attempts to force the market and sales to rental companies are lower."

## Peacock family may sell out to Booker

NIGEL COPE

Booker, the food distribution group, yesterday started a long-awaited shake-up of Britain's cash and carry sector when it made a recommended offer for Nurdin & Peacock, its beleaguered cash and carry rival, valuing the company at £264m.

The deal will give Booker 40 per cent of the UK cash and carry market though the company said it did not expect to run into competition problems with the Office of Fair Trading. Booker said the sector already faced

strong competition from the supermarket groups.

Booker's offer has the agreement of the founding Peacock family which controls a 28 per cent share. A hostile counteroffer from SHV Makro, the Dutch group which holds a 14 per cent stake in N&P, is possible.

If the deal goes through it will result in around 1,200 job losses. Booker says 40 depots will close though these are likely to be some of the smaller Booker sites. The N&P head office, which employs 500 staff in Lon-

don, will also be shut. Booker says the deal will be earnings enhancing within the first year.

It plans £10m of cost-savings in that year, doubling the year after. However, Booker's debts would soar to £400m compared to £90m of net assets. Booker says the debt level would fall by £100m after two years.

Charles Bowen, Booker's chief executive, said the deal would enable the combined group to offer more support to the independent retail sector. "Cash and carry is under pressure. Our customers are getting

squeezed more and more. We've got to do something to support them."

Mr Booker said he had been stalking N&P for two years but only heard in the past few weeks that the Peacock family might be interested in selling its stake.

Under the terms of the offer, Nurdin & Peacock shareholders will receive 14 new Booker shares and £154.53 in cash for every 100 N&P shares. Based on a Booker share price of 360.5p, this values each of Nurdin & Peacock's shares at 20.5p. There

is also a cash alternative of 201p.

Nurdin & Peacock's shares rose 68.5p to 200.5p. Booker shares closed 22.5p higher at 33p.

Julian Hardwick, an analyst at BZW, said: "I think it's a good deal for both sides and the logic is pretty compelling. Booker will have a stronger base in the UK from which to expand internationally."

He said it was likely Booker would sell some of its underperforming food businesses.

Food price war and Comment, page 21

## Graduate

Graduate plus is the marketplace with editorial and recruitment targeted at both undergraduates and graduates with 2-3 years relevant experience

See page 23-27  
section two

To book your advertisement  
call the Graduate Team on  
0171 293 2312

Every Thursday in the  
THE INDEPENDENT  
section two

STOCK MARKETS					
<b>FTSE 100</b>				Dow Jones <sup>®</sup>	Nikkei
3872.70	+6.80	+0.4	3918.70	3882.30	-4.04
4406.00	+20.80	+0.5	4568.60	4015.30	-3.91
1939.40	+6.50	+0.4	1980.50	1816.50	-3.91
2164.75	+8.34	+0.3	2244.36	1954.06	-3.05
1917.11	+8.22	+0.4	1935.24	1791.95	-2.25
5656.17	-2.22	-0.0	5778.00	5032.94	-2.25
20201.37	+3.72	+1.1	11594.95	10204.87	-3.54
11076.85	+119.77	+0.9	2583.49	2253.36	-1.84
2532.39	+21.62	+0.9			

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling <sup>1</sup>				UK medium gilt	US long bond
5.69	6.00	7.92	7.69	8.04	7.98
5.31	6.09	6.93	6.18	7.10	6.59
0.38	0.625	2.98	3.02	-	-
3.09	3.31	6.40	6.39	7.16	-
Money Market Rates					
1 Month	1 Year	Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond (%)	10 Year Ago
UK	5.69	6.00	7.92	7.69	7.98
US	5.31	6.09	6.93	6.18	7.10
Japan	0.38	0.625	2.98	3.02	-
Germany	3.09	3.31	6.40	6.39	7.16
Benchmark Indices					
FTSE 100	3872.70	2244.36	1935.24	1495.80	12.5%
New York	20201.37	11594.95	10204.87	1495.80	12.5%
Tokyo	11076.85	2532.39	2253.36	1495.80	12.5%
Hong Kong	2532.39	2533.49	2253.36	1495.80	12.5%
Frankfurt	2532.39	2533.49	2253.36	1495.80	12.5%

Source: FT Information

CURRENCIES					




<tbl\_r cells="6"

# business

## Remoulded BBA shows its fibre

### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

It is hardly surprising that BBA, the brake pads to nappy-liners group, was yesterday emphasising the importance of organic growth and bolt-on acquisitions. After its still-born attempt to break up the Lucas-Variety merger earlier this year, Robert Quarta, BBA's aggressive chief executive, had some ground to make up with City sceptics.

He need not have worried. Yesterday's figures for the half-year to June should have quelled any remaining doubts about Mr Quarta's record. The underlying performance was hidden by the last elements of his reshaping of the business. A £26.7m goodwill write-off on the sale of the Automotive Products clutch and brake business last time turned into an £11m write-back in the latest figures from the sale of the Duratex carpet underlay operation. But leaving one-offs to one side, there was a 19 per cent increase in profits to £72.1m in the period.

Having now largely completed the remoulding of BBA, Mr Quarta's task this year is to prove that the resulting business is capable of growth. The 24 per cent rise in turnover in the first half is early proof that it is.

Admittedly, Mr Quarta had some unspecified help from the first-time inclusion of Holvis, the Swiss group acquired last June. After disposals, that deal netted the Fiberweb business for BBA, turning it into the world's third-largest producer of non-woven fabrics for the likes of nappies, surgical use and filters. Stripping that out, the underlying sales increase was pared back to 5 per cent.

Even so, there is clearly still plenty to go for at BBA. Weeding out the underperformers has resulted in a further step change in margins, and even in the continuing operations, the return on sales has marched up 1.2 percentage points to 13.5 per cent in the half-year. The addition of Fiberweb and improvements to its pre-acquisition return on sales of 5 per cent helped continuing profits in effect double to £44.7m in BBA's industrial division. But given that Fiberweb's utilisation is still only 85 per cent of capacity, and with new applications for non-wovens appearing all the time, there should be more where that came from.

Elsewhere, despite its heavy exposure to the car industry, which accounts for around a quarter of group sales, BBA's brake linings business has much to commend it. The friction materials arm, Europe's leading manufacturer, shrugged off a tough six months for German car sales and, despite signs of a slowdown in the European market, the outlook is set fair. The DM20m (£8.45m) efficiency programme launched in Germany last year will be delivering in full next year, but most excitement should come from the US business. From a standing start in 1991, that is on course to take 10 per

cent of the \$1bn-\$1.5bn market by the end of the decade.

The group now has firepower of up to £300m for acquisitions without recourse to shareholders. Full-year profits of £142m before exceptional would put the shares, up 11p at 334p, on a forward p/e ratio of 17. Hold.

### Cadbury battles a drink problem

David Wellings bows out as chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes this week on the back of a decent set of half-year figures. His swan song results yesterday showed a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £231m in the six months to June, buoyed by a significant contribution from the Dr Pepper acquisition in the US.

The more interesting questions relate to what kind of business Mr Wellings's successor, John Sunderland, inherits and where he takes it from here. Cadbury Schweppes faces some challenging strategic issues. When the £62m sale of its half-share in the Coca-Cola Schweppes bottling joint venture is completed later this month, it will leave Cadbury Schweppes reliant on third-party bottlers and a distant third

in the cut-throat US soft drinks market behind Coke and PepsiCo, makers of Pepsi Cola. While the Dr Pepper brand is out-performing the US market, the Seven-Up citrus drink is finding the going tougher. It managed a 2 per cent increase in volumes in the first half, while Sprite, the Coca-Cola competitor, increased its volumes by a thumping 28 per cent, backed by a huge pre-emptive marketing spend designed to spoil Seven-Up's February relaunch.

Cadbury may have spent £351m on marketing in the first half compared with £297m in the same half last year, but its spending is dissipated across a wider portfolio of brands while its rivals concentrate on just a handful of products.

The confectionery business faces similar issues, battling against the likes of Nestlé and Hershey. Confectionery sales were up by 15 per cent, but trading profits edged up only 3 per cent and the margin fell by 1.3 percentage points due to a drive by Trebor Bassett to increase volumes and market share.

On the plus side, the new business in Poland will break even this year, only its second of operation, while investment in China and Russia is continuing. Further expansion is likely to be through acquisitions. The problem is finding suitable targets. Of the asso-

ciated business, the 22.5 per cent stake in Camelot, the National Lottery organiser, yielded profits of £9m in the six months.

BZB is forecasting full-year profits of £580m. With the shares 8p higher at £20.5p, they trade on a forward rating of 15. Much will depend on how the US drinks market holds up, particularly the battle between Seven Up and Sprite. With rumours of a bid from Unilever or a US predator receding, the shares are only a hold.

### Brammer on a roll in Europe

Brammer, the Altrincham-based distribution and rental group, is unusual for a British company with substantial overseas operations. Despite doing a third of its business abroad, it has no US or Far East subsidiaries, but concentrates instead on becoming a pan-European distributor in the single market.

It is a strategy that could leave Brammer exposed to the slowdown in large economies such as France or Germany as they whip themselves into shape for the arrival of a single European currency. But the evidence of the latest interim results suggests otherwise.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to June rose by 26 per cent to £12.8m on sales 15 per cent higher at £103m.

True, growth rates in the period have slowed from the 50 per cent seen last year as trading conditions have become more difficult. But Brammer is clearly gaining as it consolidates its leading position by rolling out its distribution network across Europe, where it provides nuts and bolts and bearings and drive belts for just-in-time delivery.

The most recent example of moves to reinforce the business came in April when Brammer bought the 75 per cent of a Spanish distributor it did not already own for £10.5m. With £3.1m of net cash on the balance sheet, more acquisitions should follow.

Brammer is the European leader in testing and computer equipment, a market with good growth prospects as chip customers such as BT, Siemens and Nokia increasingly outsource their information technology services. This division, which accounts for a fifth of profits, was bolstered in July with the acquisition of Hamilton, which specialises in the short-term rental of computer equipment in the Benelux countries, for up to £6.8m.

The shares have been strong performers this year, rising another 9.5p to 594.5p yesterday. "Clean profits of £26.6m this year would put them on a forward multiple of 15. That looks undemanding and suggests they have further to run."

BBA : AT A GLANCE					
	1993	1994	1995	1995	1996
	Full year		Half year		
Turnover (£m)	14.5	16.0	1.18	8.05	5.72
Pre-tax profits (£m)	-14.5	63.9	66.8	33.8	83.1
Earnings per share (pence)	0.0	0.64	2.4	0.6	11.8
Dividends per share (pence)	7.5	4.75	6.0	1.8	2.1

Group operating margin %	Share price pence
15	400
12	350
9	300
6	250
3	200
0	150
Full year	Source: Bloomberg
1993 94 95 96	

"Does it really matter who's behind your travel insurance?"

#### A very down to earth question.

The words 'American Express' are understood around the world. That's important if you're abroad and you need medical attention, cover for lost baggage or personal property, compensation for travel delay or funding for legal expenses. So if you need emergency assistance or even pre-travel advice, our representatives are on call 24 hours a day wherever on earth you are. We offer a choice of competitively-priced annual or single trip policies that you need not be a Cardmember to take advantage of. You see, your travel insurance provider can make a world of difference.

To find out how we can help you do more with travel insurance, call 0800 700737

#### Insurance Services

TIN1

Policy terms and conditions are available upon request.  
American Express Services Europe Limited, Reg. Office, Portland House, 1 Stag Place, London SW1E 5BZ, Reg. No. 1833139.

## Tilcon deal gives CRH a new US building block

MAGNUS GRIMOND

CRH, the Irish building materials group, yesterday pulled off the biggest deal in its history with the \$329m (£212m) acquisition of the US quarrying and aggregates business of Tilcon from BTR, the industrial conglomerate.

The acquisition will create the biggest construction materials group in the north-eastern US, where CRH has a business, to add to the Irish group's leading position in the Rocky Mountain states of Utah, Nevada and Idaho. The deal also brings the proceeds of the disposal programme instigated at BTR by new chief executive Ian Stratton to £700m so far.

The cash purchase is being part-funded through a £101m share placing at £15.75p. CRH shares added 12.5p to 638.5p yesterday, while BTR's rose 2.5p to 259.5p.

The Tilcon deal means CRH has spent £440m on acquisitions this year and breaks new ground not only through its size but in that it is being done with a public company.

In the past, the Irish group has expanded through buying small privately-owned groups, but finance director Harry Sheridan denied yesterday that the Tilcon move marked a change in strategy. "We see it very much as a series of concurrent add-ons which complements our existing operation in the north-east. We don't see it as a large acquisition, just part of our existing strategy to create strong regional groupings."

Mr Sheridan said CRH had previously targeted small private units because they were easier to check and resulted in better value. Tilcon satisfied both criteria.

The gross consideration for the Connecticut-based Tilcon operation is \$220m and CRH is assuming a further \$109m of debt with the business. But the final sale price will be reduced by \$50m of sales of businesses which are either non-core or being forced on the Irish group to satisfy competition authorities.

Together with a seasonal reduction in debt of around \$25m, the gross number of disposals by BTR analysts said yesterday the latest deal would not prevent the group announcing a dividend cut of around a third and lower profits when it unveils results next Thursday.

Mr Stratton said the disposal represented another important step in repositioning BTR's portfolio of businesses. The proceeds are to be invested in the remaining manufacturing and engineering operations.

CRH unveiled a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £64.1m for the six months to June. Turnover rose by a similar amount to £1.6bn.



Don Godson: Strong position in north-eastern US

CRH chief executive Don Godson reckons the company is paying a net £254m for Tilcon.

The business operates from 60 operations in nine states. The operations being retained produced 16 million tons of aggregates, 6 million tons of asphalt and 400,000 cubic yards of ready mixed concrete last year.

After adjusting for disposals, that fed into operating profits of \$30.5m on sales of \$334m in 1995.

Mr Sheridan said the two north-eastern operations offered plenty of scope for rationalisation and there would be job losses. Despite the growing

third of senior administrative jobs.

Mr Rice has outlined space for 100 senior managers, compared with the current total of 150. A spokeswoman said existing staff would undergo an intensive selection process aimed at getting the best fit for the new roles. A further 450 administrative jobs will be cut over the next few months, though final decisions about who will be affected have yet to be taken.

Those who did not fit into the new structure would not necessarily lose their jobs immediately, though Mr Rice has made it clear there are only a limited number of long-term posts available. The cuts are part of a drive to achieve annual cost savings of £65m over the next three years.

The staff reductions, which are likely to have a bigger impact on the Lucas side of the business, shift the focus of the company towards the US. Lucas has 250 head office staff whereas Variety already runs a leaner headquarters operation in the US with just 50 employees.

Lucas employs disproportionately large numbers of staff when compared with the stakes the two companies have in the merger. Lucas investors gained two thirds of the shares in LucasVariety, which starts trading on Friday, while Variety investors got a third of the equity. Yet Lucas currently employs 45,000 people worldwide, against only 10,000 for Variety.

The company yesterday announced its new executive team, with eight former Lucas personnel and six Variety directors including Mr Rice.

## UK to bear brunt of Lucas cuts

CHRIS GODSMARK

Business Correspondent

The UK operations of LucasVariety, the car parts and aerospace giant formed recently in a £2.2bn merger, are to bear the brunt of a restructuring programme involving around 500 job losses.

Just two months after the deal was unveiled, Victor Rice, the new chief executive who previously headed Variety, has already completed a review of management structures which will result in a potential cull of a

third of senior administrative jobs.

Mr Rice has outlined space for 100 senior managers, compared with the current total of 150. A spokeswoman said existing staff would undergo an intensive selection process aimed at getting the best fit for the new roles. A further 450 administrative jobs will be cut over the next few months, though final decisions about who will be affected have yet to be taken.

Those who did not fit into the new structure would not necessarily lose their jobs immediately, though Mr Rice has made it clear there are only a limited number of long-term posts available. The cuts are part of a drive to achieve annual cost savings of £65m over the next three years.

The staff reductions, which are likely to have a bigger impact on the Lucas side of the business, shift the focus of the company towards the US. Lucas has 250 head office staff whereas Variety already runs a leaner headquarters operation in the US with just 50 employees.

### CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

John Major attended as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1990 to mark a European Directive which opened insurance markets in the Euro-

pean union to Lloyd's.

Mr Rowland said that although the bell was actually rung by one of Lloyd's pink-coated waiters and not Mr

Major, the latter was the "official" ringer.

"You see what happens to people who ring the bell," the chairman said, referring to Mr Major's subsequent elevation to No 10.

David Newbigging, chairman of Equitas, added quietly: "If they can count."

Ward Thomas, the cheeky chairman of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, has written to Channel 5 insisting that when their people turn up at his home to return his telly to receive the new channel, they will have to do the job out in the drive.

"To avoid any security risk f will not permit any of your operatives access to my house," writes Mr Thomas.

He then includes a form Channel 5 must sign and return, indemnifying him against damage or worsening of interference he may suffer as a result of the returning.

Channel 5 has written back to Mr Thomas, saying: "We regret that we cannot sign the attached form."

Robert Head, head of customer services at Channel 5, goes on to assure Mr Thomas that all staff are fully trained in returning, that any complaints will be dealt with swiftly and that no one is being forced to accept a visit from a returner. Mr Head concludes: "In the event that returning cannot be successfully implemented, a blocker can be fitted to exclude Channel 5 [and any associated interference]."

I call that 30-all. New balls, Mr Thomas?

Cadbury's results yesterday were the swan song for chief executive David Wellings, who is retiring to devote all his energies to his first love: ornithology in Majorca. Mr Wellings wants to help preserve wildlife on the island, which includes the rare Black Vulture (above).

News reaches us, however, of a damaging boardroom split at Cadbury. The chairman, Dominic Cadbury, likes going out and shooting magpies as a hobby. Mr Wellings is aghast that as fast as he is saving birds, Mr Cadbury is blasting them to pieces. Mr Wellings says, sorrowfully: "Every time he does that, I give him a bollocking."

gives  
US  
ock

## COMMENT

This kind of thing might have been understandable in old-fashioned, inadequately regulated, one-man bands. But Morgan Grenfell?

A few years ago our City regulators had a great idea. What's the point, they figured, in spending a lot of time and effort regulating those who are perfectly capable of regulating themselves. Much better, they thought, to concentrate scarce resources on the smaller, high-risk players, leaving the grown-ups, provided they can demonstrate adequate internal controls, to their own devices. That policy seems to lie in tatters today, with the shenanigans at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management ample demonstration that even the grown-ups cannot be relied upon to look after themselves properly.

The more that becomes known about this bizarre affair, the more serious the failure in internal control seems to look. This kind of thing might have been understandable enough in old-fashioned, inadequately regulated, one-man band and essentially crooked fund management operations like Burlow Clowes. But Morgan Grenfell?

It transpires that quite a number of the unquoted investments were valued for the trusts by their own manager, Peter Young. While this is no doubt legal, you don't need to be trained in these things to realise that it is also highly questionable. Mr Young had a vested interest in seeing his trusts perform and therefore a clear conflict of interest when engaged in the valuation process.

Worse, we have been unable to find anyone who has ever heard of the Norwegian unquoted companies the trusts put their money into. This might be understandable

enough in a large economy with lots of businesses, but Norway is a country of just 4 million people. It stretches credulity that the financial community of such a closely knit country would not have heard about companies which supposedly were about to be listed on the stock market. The best interpretation that can be put on this is that Mr Young was operating way outside his parameters as a kind of loose cannon venture capitalist. The worst interpretation hardly bears thinking about.

But most worrying of all is that Mr Young's penchant for investing in companies no one had ever heard of went unchecked for so long. All over the City, fund managers and their trustees will be rethinking and re-examining their controls. The regulators too will have to take a second look at the strategy that allows big players to police their own affairs. For while in this case the parent bank had the good grace to bail out the trustee, there will come a day when it makes sense even for a big player to cut and run.

## Labour and Tories are hard to tell apart

As spin-doctoring conventions go, Labour's one-day conference for business folk yesterday was hard to beat. The heavy of Labour party press officers on hand to dole out copies of speeches and generally plug the line that business can trust Tony Blair was

only outdone by the extraordinary number of PR men and women in the audience. A quick count yielded 82 of them.

Toss in diplomats, trade unionists, academics and Labour MPs dragged into turning up to make the numbers look respectable and barely half the delegates were at might be called the cutting edge of industry and finance.

In some ways that was a shame since Labour had certainly fielded its top brass. Alongside the leader, there were no less than nine members of his shadow cabinet, including even the home affairs spokesman, Jack Straw. He was there to tell the business world what Labour would do about itself from companies and he wasn't talking about some of the latest L-Tips that have been dreamed up in the boardroom.

In other ways the low calibre of delegate was all too predictable since it was the same old fare that Labour has been serving up for the last six months – the sort of apple-pie and motherhood combination that could not conceivably cause anyone offence. Hands up all those in favour of low inflation, tight control of public spending, better education and backing for small business.

A few die-hards like Dixons' Sir Stanley Kalms will continue to spy reds under the bed but at this rate it is going to be difficult to insert a cigarette paper between Labour and the Tories on macro-economic policy come the election.

There will, Mr Blair tells us, be no return

to penal rates of taxation and a bottom rate that would make even Ken Clarke's eyes water. There will be no question of imposing Continental-style non-labour costs on Britain unless our employers want it. We cannot even be certain whether there will be a windfall tax now, while even the boardroom fat cats look like getting away with a voluntary code.

Much of business may harbour an instinctive dislike of Labour. But its difficulty on polling day may be distinguishing which party is which.

## Booker and N&amp;P made for each other

At first glance, Booker's marriage proposal to its cash and carry rival Nurdin & Peacock looks a rather odd union. The business of supplying Happy Shopper beans and loo rolls to local corner shops is a shrinking one. Independent retailers are being squeezed by the mighty supermarket operators and the cash and carry companies are finding themselves squeezed alongside them. It is a wonder anyone wants to be in the business at all, let alone expand in it.

The boring old cash and carry groups have tried all manner of things to perk up the market. N&P thought it had found the holy grail a few years ago when it launched Cargo Club, an attempt to mirror the huge cut-price grocery chains that were all the rage

in America. The idea bombed and after a couple of years was abandoned.

The rationale of this deal is less to do with the market itself as our old friend, cost-cutting, and of course the advantages of eliminating your closest rival. Both companies are about to invest heavily in technology. Those plans can now be streamlined.

Indeed, Booker's and N&P's combined sales will be north of £4bn which is comparable buying power to a very substantial multiple. The combined group will also have stronger buying power and a stronger position in own brands.

In other respects, too, the companies look a neat fit. Booker is stronger in the North while N&P's stronghold, such as it is, lies in the South. Booker has a stronger position in supplying the catering trade while N&P has been struggling along with its convenience store partners. While this is undoubtedly a case of managing decline and using the cash thrown off by a mature business to invest in other areas, there's nothing necessarily wrong with such a strategy.

Booker has already established cash-and-business in Portugal and Poland and would like to expand elsewhere in eastern Europe. In these countries the smaller retailer and corner shop is still strong. The supermarket operators have yet to gain a stranglehold on food retailing. On the whole, the City likes the deal and the strategy. Unexciting it may be but you cannot fault the logic of it.

## £100m twist in tail as Lloyd's sets bell ringing

PETER RODGERS  
Financial Editor

Three rings of the famous Lutine bell yesterday marked the arrival of the Lloyd's insurance market in a safe port, after Anthony Nelson, the trade and industry minister, gave formal approval to the £3.2bn rescue.

But in a surprise late demand, Mr Nelson insisted that Lloyd's give an assurance that it is prepared to find up to £100m in the period to January 2002, to top up the £1.68bn reserves of Equitas the new reinsurance company at the heart of the rescue.

Mr Nelson said the pledge was required in case interest earnings on Equitas's investments were lower than expected or there was a shortfall in contributions from agents or brokers.

David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, said: "Our regulators have driven hard bargains all the time."

He described the extra money as "one more piece of belt and braces that the DTI thinks necessary". But he de-

clined to say whether the names who are members of the market would have to pay.

Mr Rowland was speaking after presiding over a variation on the celebrated Lloyd's ceremony of ringing the Lutine bell once for a disaster and twice for good news.

The first of the three rings was a reminder of the £80m losses at Lloyd's and the other two were to announce the good news of the rescue.

Mr Rowland said: "I wanted to mark the difference. Once in sorrow and twice for joy was in the history of Lloyd's. This is a very special occasion."

"The most important thing for the market to remember is how close we came to not surviving, and the reasons for it," he told a packed meeting of thousands of Lloyd's professionals in the underwriting room in the insurance market's headquarters in Lime Street, to loud applause.

The bell has been rung more than twice on a previous occasion, though that was when it was rung four times in 1994 for the performance of a specially

composed piece of music. The last time it was rung twice as a result of good news from the ocean was in 1981 when an overdue Liberian ship was found.

Mr Nelson said that since he conditionally authorised Equitas in March there had been an overall strengthening of its financial position.

The process of transferring money to finance these liabilities can now proceed, including trust funds held in the US

abilities, which were £14.7bn at the end of last year.

Claims payments since then have reduced the total to about £11.5bn.

Mr Nelson said that since he conditionally authorised Equitas in March there had been an overall strengthening of its financial position.

Mr Nelson said there would be a review of Lloyd's regulation, but it would be deferred until after the election. He expected changes to be made to the whole system of financial regulation and any reforms al-

lowed by the New York Insurance Department, which has also agreed the rescue and is to continue to be given Lloyd's financial data to monitor. Yesterday the department approved a transfer of £3.5bn.

Mr Nelson said there would be a review of Lloyd's regulation, but it would be deferred until after the election. He expected changes to be made to the whole system of financial regulation and any reforms al-

lowed by the New York Insurance Department, which has also agreed the rescue and is to continue to be given Lloyd's financial data to monitor. Yesterday the department approved a transfer of £3.5bn.

Mr Nelson said there would be a review of Lloyd's regulation, but it would be deferred until after the election. He expected changes to be made to the whole system of financial regulation and any reforms al-

## Refuge puts off merger meeting

PETER RODGERS

Refuge and United Friendly yesterday postponed the key shareholders meeting on their £1.5bn merger from next Monday until 26 September after agreeing to improve the terms.

Two of the largest shareholders, Prudential and Britannia Assurance, are believed to be ready to accept the merger on the changed terms, but Refuge needs longer to work out the details.

However Perpetual, the fund management group with 7.5 per cent of the shares, said yesterday that new proposals were inadequate.

Refuge and United are to issue a note promising addition-

al payments to be made if the Department of Trade and Industry decides to allow some of the group's "orphan estate" of unclaimed life assurance assets to be given to shareholders.

Refuge said in a statement last night that it nevertheless believed that on the basis of its discussions with the DTI, there would not be additional value released for shareholders.

Sources close to the company said it still believed it might have won the vote on Monday, but there was no sense in upsetting shareholders.

Perpetual would also like to see a 50:50 split of shareholders in the enlarged group instead of 53 per cent for United and 47 per cent for Refuge.

French GDP declined unexpectedly sharply in the second quarter of the year. The fall of 0.4 per cent was due to weakness across the board, with consumption, spending, investment, stocks and exports all down. Finance minister Jean Arthuis, due to present his budget next week, said conditions for growth were in place. He has forecast 2.25-2.5 per cent growth in the second half of the year.

German orders increased in July for the fourth time in five months, confirming other recent evidence that economic recovery is under way. Pan-German orders were up 0.9 per cent, dominated by the consumer goods sector.

The burden of taxation will have to shift further away from income tax towards taxes on spending, according to Mervyn King, the Bank of England's chief economist. Speaking at a personal capacity at a conference in Geneva, Mr King argued that new technology will make it harder to collect many kinds of tax revenues, but it will be easier to collect VAT. He suggested that taxing capital will be more difficult because of its international mobility.

JD Wetherspoon, the pub operator, announced a 61 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £13.1m for the year to 31 July. The company said it had opened 36 new pubs last year. In the current year, it said it had opened four more pubs, boosting its total to 150, with agreements to open an additional 100 sites. The final dividend is 3.9p, lifting the total payout from 5p to 5.9p.

Olivetti's shares soared yesterday as the resignation late on Tuesday night of chairman Carlo De Benedetti raised hopes the company would emerge from five years of losses and abandon a management style that investors claim left them in the dark. "We are interested in seeing better stewardship of the company," said Mark Rogers, a fund manager at Nomura Capital Management, who last week met with other Olivetti shareholders to discuss ways of forcing the company to improve its performance. Olivetti shares soared as much as 73 lire to 799 lire (34p) in the first 10 minutes of trading on the Italian stock exchange before being temporarily suspended. Later, they were up 14 at 740 lire. Bloomberg

The UK's gross domestic expenditure on R&D was £14.6bn in cash terms in 1994, up from £13.8bn in 1993. This was almost the same share of gross domestic product – 2.19 per cent compared with 2.20 per cent – and showed an increase in real terms of 3.7 per cent between the two years. Over the period, pharmaceuticals has overtaken aerospace to become the largest spending industry, spending £1.8bn in 1994 compared with the £1.1bn of aerospace. Chemical industry research remains, apart from these two, the biggest spender with over £800m, though if research on computer related activities were added to that on hardware this could be regarded as the next largest industry in terms of spending at £900m.

Merrill Lynch is acquiring the Italian brokerage assets of Sweden's Carnegie Group. The acquisition of Carnegie Italia is the first in Italy for the US's largest brokerage. Merrill did not say how much it is paying. Earlier this year, Merrill paid \$29.7m (£19m) for FG Investments Bursatiles SA, Madrid's biggest broker. Last year, Merrill bought Britain's Smith New Court for \$842m. Stockholm-based Carnegie Group is 45 per cent owned by its employees and 55 per cent by London-based Singer & Friedlander.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.

Connexions is a leading provider of employment services in the UK. The company has over 1,000 branches and employs around 10,000 people. It offers a range of services including job matching, training, and advice on careers and skills development.



Former Medeva execs could clear the way for our action at Lloyds. Their company health is bidding for a whole-swing deposit and I am confident we will have to review the Lloyds held at 49.5 per cent.

Blawhorn Tea has made more - from the same lot to £1m. More than half of its share is now in groups. It is up 90 per cent.

In Berlin, a new group which made most of its acquisition revenue - where it started in October, having now closed cleaners and is now a national group. It's up 100 per cent, from £1.4m to £1.4m this year.

Mr Clarke's new team, a mix of old and new, is making a difference - where it started in October, having now closed cleaners and is now a national group. It's up 100 per cent, from £1.4m to £1.4m this year.

# Labour looks favourite for the fiscal beauty contest

**I**t is 20 years since a balance of payments and sterling crisis forced the then Chancellor, Denis Healey, to turn back from Heathrow Airport and call in an emergency team from the International Monetary Fund. The result of the IMF's visit was stringent cuts in public expenditure and higher interest rates in order to bring the balance of payments deficit under control. In other words, it is two decades since monetarism arrived on these shores.

According to the doyen of opinion pollsters, Bob Worcester of Mori, Lord Healey was the most trusted of British Chancellors - in contrast to Kenneth Clarke, who ranks only a little above Norman "ERM" Lamont. However, the economy played a big part in Labour's 1979 downfall, if only indirectly through the spending cuts prescribed by the IMF.

Mr Worcester points out that voters judge governments' economic competence according to the standards the politicians set themselves. For Harold Wilson it was the strength of the pound; he devalued. In the late 1970s it was the UK's manufacturing and export prowess; the balance of payments chasm yawned. The next election will reveal how clearly voters remember John Major's passionate defence of sterling's parity in the exchange rate mechanism, and whether "Black Wednesday" nearly four years ago will be downfall.

However, the other peg on which this Government has hung its hat is control of the public finances. Above all, Tories are supposed to be good at keeping the books in order.

However, the comparison of the



ECONOMIC VIEW  
DIANE COYLE

They have not been as good as they would like us to believe. As the *Independent* made clear earlier this week, using official statistics, the Conservatives have been guilty of asset-stripping in order to finance current spending. One-offs such as privatisation revenues have helped pay for government spending and tax cuts.

The pre-1992 election binge led to a build-up in the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, which peaked at 7 per cent of GDP or

more for a "responsible" penny or two off the basic rate and an increase in allowances for the low paid.

The fact that the Treasury turned over-pessimistic about the likely growth in tax revenues in its mid-year forecast, after a couple of years of over-optimism, will make for some pleasant surprises on the smoothly PSBR figures in the run-up to the Budget and the subsequent election.

The projections published in the Budget Red Book will take advantage of the cyclical improvement in order to continue to portray a steady decline in the borrowing requirement towards zero around 2000.

This strategy will leave the way open for Labour to say where the arithmetic has been massaged and how bad a fiscal position they think they will inherit. Tony Blair has set out a long-term objective of a 10 pence tax rate for the low paid. The next step is to get the bad news out with a forecast of what public sector borrowing is really likely to be in 1997-98 and beyond.

The big issue for Labour will then be whether to take the final step and say precisely what short-term increase in tax revenues will be needed to make sure public sector borrowing is no greater than public sector investment - the "golden rule" for sustainability to which the party has committed itself - and how they would do it. There is a case for arguing that precision about the numbers is better than vague terms.

The longer-term issue for any government after the election is the fact that the tax-cutting habit means that it will be zero at the turn of the century, the same off the contingency reserve, slightly higher corporate taxes - and there is the

problem that he has delivered public spending on target for three years to a row, that has been accomplished by reductions in capital spending and running costs. Further trimming here will be harder, especially if the Private Finance Initiative continues to limp along feebly.

The forthcoming Budget will offer Labour the chance to pull ahead in the fiscal beauty contest. For Mr Clarke's broad strategy is most likely to be the same as last year's. A billion or two off spending plans, the same off the contingency reserve, slightly higher corporate taxes - and there is the

problem that he has delivered

money for a "responsible" penny or two off the basic rate and an increase in allowances for the low paid.

The fact that the Treasury turned over-pessimistic about the likely growth in tax revenues in its mid-year forecast, after a couple of years of over-optimism, will make for some pleasant surprises on the smoothly PSBR figures in the run-up to the Budget and the subsequent election.

The projections published in the Budget Red Book will take advantage of the cyclical improvement in order to continue to portray a steady decline in the borrowing requirement towards zero around 2000.

This strategy will leave the way open for Labour to say where the arithmetic has been massaged and how bad a fiscal position they think they will inherit. Tony Blair has set out a long-term objective of a 10 pence tax rate for the low paid. The next step is to get the bad news out with a forecast of what public sector borrowing is really likely to be in 1997-98 and beyond.

The big issue for Labour will then be whether to take the final step and say precisely what short-term increase in tax revenues will be needed to make sure public sector borrowing is no greater than public sector investment - the "golden rule" for sustainability to which the party has committed itself - and how they would do it. There is a case for arguing that precision about the numbers is better than vague terms.

The longer-term issue for any government after the election is the fact that the tax-cutting habit means that it will be zero at the turn of the century, the same off the contingency reserve, slightly higher corporate taxes - and there is the

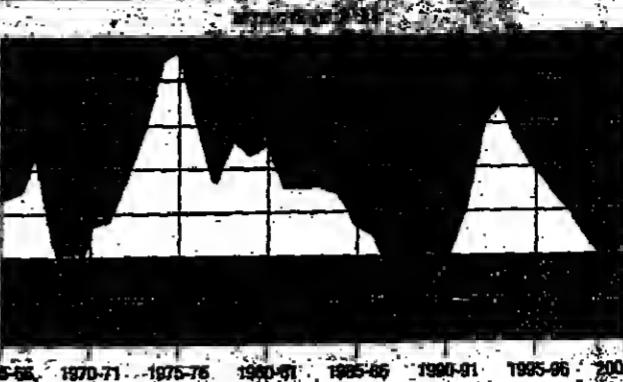
problem that he has delivered

public spending on target for three years to a row, that has been accomplished by reductions in capital spending and running costs. Further trimming here will be harder, especially if the Private Finance Initiative continues to limp along feebly.

The forthcoming Budget will offer Labour the chance to pull ahead in the fiscal beauty contest. For Mr Clarke's broad strategy is most likely to be the same as last year's. A billion or two off spending plans, the same off the contingency reserve, slightly higher corporate taxes - and there is the

problem that he has delivered

## PUBLIC SECTOR BORROWING REQUIREMENT



A long shadow over Labour: Denis Healey's Chancellorship led to stringent spending cuts and high interest rates to bring down inflation

penditure is higher than growth in revenues. If the scale of the public sector is to shrink, it has to shrink on both sides of the accounts. This would mean rethinking the way the welfare state has been allowed to expand, and reversing two or three decades worth of entitlements.

As the French economist Daniel Cohen has argued persuasively in a recent book, "it was the 'golden age' of post-war prosperity, the out of the ordinary growth rates experienced during the 1950s and 1960s, that allowed the industrialised economies to afford their welfare states. A high rate of economic growth delivers rapid increases in tax revenues. Provision of public services and benefits can increase in line with the economy.

The adjustment to the post-1973 growth slowdown has proved, so far, impossible. During the past two decades public sector borrowing has averaged 4.5 per cent of GDP, 7 per cent under Labour and 5.5 per cent under the Conservatives.

Mr Clarke's implicit strategy is to assume that the economy's potential growth has increased from its post-golden age average of 2 per cent. The long term does not worry him. He is relying on the return of golden growth rather than the discipline of the gold rule.

In New Labour there is a greater willingness to think the unthinkable, although not necessarily speak the unthinkable, about imposing genuine discipline on the public sector finances and rethinking the structure of the welfare state. Lord Healey's Chancellorship casts a long shadow over the party.

\* *The Misfortunes of Prosperity*, Daniel Cohen, MIT Press.

## Foreign Exchange Rates

Sterling

Dollar

DM

Yen

DM

# sport

## Frentzen on fast track at Williams

### Motor racing

DERRICK ALLSOP

Heinz-Harald Frentzen was confirmed yesterday as Damon Hill's replacement in the Williams Renault Formula One team.

In a brief statement, Williams said the 29-year-old German would be partnering Jacques Villeneuve next season - but made no mention of 1998.

It had been understood that Frentzen, who has had three seasons with Sauber, would be signing a two-year contract, but the second year may be subject to the team's discretion.

Frank Williams, the team director, also gave a three-season appreciation of Hill, who leads the World Championship by 13 points from Villeneuve with three races remaining.

"Damon has contributed greatly to the team both as a test and race driver - he has done an excellent job for us," Williams said. "I think his record speaks for itself, as very few drivers have ever approached his record of 20 wins in 64 starts. He will be missed by everyone at our Grove factory and we will wish him the best of luck for the remainder of this year, as well as the future."

Hill resumes his quest for the title in the Italian Grand Prix at Monza on Sunday. If he wins that race, and Villeneuve is no better than fourth, the Englishman's mission will be accomplished.

Jordan-Peugeot remain the favourites to sign the 35-year-old Hill for next season, although he has also been linked with a possible move to IndyCars.

Frentzen's arrival in Formula One's top team will have Germany's motor racing followers salivating at the prospect of his confronting Michael Schumacher.

In their earlier days, as members of the Mercedes "junior" sports car team, many rated Frentzen the quicker of the two drivers. He is, however, almost two years older than Schumacher, who developed rapidly and was more dedicated to his job.

Frentzen was more laid-back, enjoyed life beyond the race track and was left behind by Schumacher, Germany's idol. And Frentzen's girlfriend joined the flow, eventually becoming Mrs Schumacher.

Born in Mönchengladbach, Frentzen had a familiar grounding, starting in karts, becoming the German junior champion,

and graduating to cars. He advanced through Formula Ford 2000 and Formula 3 to join Eddie Jordan's Formula 3000 team, as well as the Mercedes organisation.

While Schumacher was emerging as the new golden boy of Formula One, Frentzen was plying his trade in Japanese Formula 3000 and sports car championships.

His break in Formula One came in 1994, when he returned to the Sauber-Mercedes camp for their assault on motor racing's premier category. However, Mercedes switched to McLaren after the first season and Sauber have failed to make a significant impact.

Frentzen's best result is third place, ironically at Monza last year, but presumably he has shown sufficient potential to assure Williams he is worthy of their car.

He is patently fast and his erratic form this season may have more to do with frustration than true ability. If he is good enough, he will have no need to drive over the limit next season.

All Germany will be watching with fascination - and probably no one with greater interest than Schumacher.



Happy to be Heinz-Harald: Frentzen moves to Williams next season. Photograph: Empics

## Penny drops for Warrington

### Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

In what looks less like clearing the decks than throwing the crew overboard, Warrington have transfer-listed 19 players.

The former Great Britain Under-21 full-back, Lee Penny, heads the list of those invited to walk the plank at £120,000, with four others who have appeared in the first team this season - Mark Jones, Salei Finau, Paul Barron and John Hough - all available at £35,000 apiece.

Barrow cost £60,000 from Swinton last year, while Jones and Jason Lee, listed at £20,000, are both current Welsh internationals. A former Great Britain player, Andy Currier, who has been on loan to South Wales for most of the season, is also available for a permanent transfer at £20,000. The club is also releasing the Australian hooker, Kris Watson. "It costs a lot of money to finance a first team player these days," said the Warrington chairman, Peter Higham. "If they aren't doing the business, they have to go."

Higham said that the club had incoming players lined up, including some from overseas, which explains the need to unload Watson and Finau, who hails from Tonga from their import quota. Warrington are already estranged from their

most valuable player, Jestyn Harris, who is on the list at a world record £1.4m. The club has complained to the Rugby League over a statement that it will not be allowed to sign for a rugby union club, several of which have made substantial offers to him.

"We had the deal of the century lined up and we don't want right to interfere in clubs' contractual business," said Higham.

Robbie Paul, who is to guest with Harlequins during the winter, has signed a new four-year contract with the Bradford Bulls. Paul, the 20-year-old club captain who was voted Stones Super League Player of the Year this week, will be at Odsal until 2000.

The St Helens forward, Chris Joynt, is to have a knee operation next week, after the Premiership final against Wigan, and could miss the early stages of Great Britain's southern hemisphere tour.

The Great Britain coach, Phil Larder, whose contract at Keighley ends after Sunday's Divisional Premiership final against Salford, has denied reports that he is to join Wigan as director of coaching.

Tony Chambers, a director of a Manchester property company, is the new chairman at Widnes, succeeding Jim Mills, who resigned last week.

## Indurain 'to retire'

### Cycling

Indurain would not compete for another season just for the money. "Miguel is an honest man. His engine is as powerful as ever and he is only 32 years old," Lafarge said. "But if he feels he can no longer be his former self, he won't do one more season just for the money."

The Banesto spokesman said: "We are focusing on the Tour of Spain and, when the moment comes to renew the contract, we will see."

Last month Indurain said he was not keen to race in the three-week Tour of Spain, starting in Valencia on Saturday.

"I didn't particularly want to do it but the team decides," he said. "Physically I am well, but mentally I'm not."

## Davies puts in double effort

### Golf

ANDY FARRELL  
reports from Hanbury Manor

Greenvale, where the Americans were lucky, we have all wanted to get the cup back." Two years ago, the USA won 13-7.

"When Seve Ballesteros took over as captain of the European Ryder Cup team, he requested four wild card selections. It was rejected on the basis that, having won with two last year, the situation should remain unchanged. Mickey Walker, his counterpart for the women's Solheim Cup, had five choices and used them last Sunday to complete her team to face the Americans at St Pierre in two weeks time."

"The system has allowed me to pick the top 12 players in Europe," Walker said. "If I had had 12 choices, it would have been the same team." Among the picks were three Swedes, Helen Alfredsson, Linette Neumann, and Cathrin Nilmark, who holed the winning putt at Dalmahoy four years ago, and the Scots Kathryn Marshall and Dale Reid. After the effort of making the team, most are resting this week, but Reid, Trish Johnson and the world No 1, Laura Davies, begin the Solheim countdown today here in Hertfordshire at the European Open.

Reid, 37, will be one of six players to have played in all four teams since the inaugural match in 1990, but has not had the best of seasons. After a last round 80 in Sweden, Reid thought her chance had gone. "When I was told I was in, I was pleasantly shocked," Reid said. "I thought I had blown it. Waiting to find out was the longest three or four hours of my life. Ever since The

## Allenby in the Alps

Colin Montgomerie is out to maintain his assault on the summit of the European rankings with victory in the Swiss Alps this weekend. The Scot struggled to gain ninth place on the dodge greens in the British Masters at Collingtree Park last week, and will be hoping for improved fortunes in the European Masters, which starts today at Crans-sur-Sierre.

Montgomerie and Allenby are playing together for the first two rounds as they tackle a course high up in the mountains - 5,000 feet above sea level.

**1 THE INDEPENDENT**

**RACING**

# PLAY FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM

## WIN a drive in a grand prix car



Plus prizes to be won with every grand prix

### DREAM TEAM TOP PRIZE

The Dream Team winner with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix competition will win our top prize - a drive in a Formula 1 car. You will be flown to the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix weekend in November and given a choice of driving with either the race winner, Jacques Villeneuve, or the race's pole-sitter, Mika Hakkinen. Our winner will also receive 4 tickets for this year's Motor Show in October at the Birmingham NEC.

Take the start, no points are lost.

● Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend scores no points.

● Classic score and loss points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire.

● Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement penalties.

● Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to

take the start, no points are lost.

● Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend scores no points.

● Classic score and loss points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire.

● Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement penalties.

● Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to

### ITALIAN GRAND PRIX PRIZE

The Dream Team winner with the highest number of points following the Italian Grand Prix will win a copy of the new book British Grand Prix at Silverstone 1996, signed by the race winner, Jacques Villeneuve. Our winner will also receive 4 tickets for this year's Motor Show in October at the Birmingham NEC.

Take the start, no points are lost.

● Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend scores no points.

● Classic score and loss points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire.

● Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement penalties.

● Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to

key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine choices. The computer will check that your team falls within budget and is eligible.

Method 2 uses a non-tone phone and you give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method.

When you have registered your Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tie, the team that registered first will win.

Once you have registered your team you

will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. Your team selections plus your personal details will be played back to you and, when you confirm that they are correct, you will be given a PIN number.

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score checking line.

There is no limit on the number of teams an individual can enter, but only one team can be registered per call.

### CHECKING YOUR SCORE

You can check your team's position at any time by calling 0891 891 806 and quoting your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line will also list the Top 50 Formula One Dream Teams.

### Rules

1. All telephone calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times, with a typical call to secure your entry lasting between five and seven minutes.

2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to that race.

3. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes.

4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Pic, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families are ineligible.

5. Entrants must be 18 or over and residents of the UK or the Irish Republic.

6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 220lbs.

7. All scores will be worked out according to the official FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life.

8. In the event of a tie for the Dream Team Top Prize or for any of the individual race prizes, the team that registered first will win.

9. For lost PIN numbers please call: 0891 891 808. For our Helpline call: 01275 344183.

10. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 50 teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be updated at 2 pm on the Monday following a race.

### Shopping List

#### DRIVERS

£25m

1 M Schumacher

£23m

2 J Alesi

3 D Hill

£20m

4 G Berger

£18m

5 D Coulthard

£16m

6 E Irvine

7 J Villeneuve

£13m

8 M Hakkinen

9 H H Frentzen

£10m

10 M Brundle

11 R Barichello

12 J Herbert

£6m

13 M Salo

14 P Lamy

£4m

15 P Diniz

16 U Karayama

17 J Verstappen

£3m

18 O Panis

£2m

19 L Badoer

£1.5m



# Sport

## When, you have to wonder, will sports performers realise that there are damn sight harder ways to make a living?

Until now there has not been an opportunity to reveal the truth behind an event at the Atlanta Olympics six weeks ago that apparently touched the hearts of millions watching on television.

Every so often, all too frequently these days, I come across stories in sport that indicate the extent of television's pernicious influence. Sadly, the award of a gold medal to Muhammad Ali during the interval of a basketball game involving the ludicrous US Dream Team is one of them.

A famous act of Ali's momentous career is that, wittened by the humiliation of being refused service at a hamburger restaurant after returning to Louisville from the 1960

Rome Olympics, he went to a nearby bridge and cast his gold medal into the river. No sports figure, to my mind, has made a more important social statement.

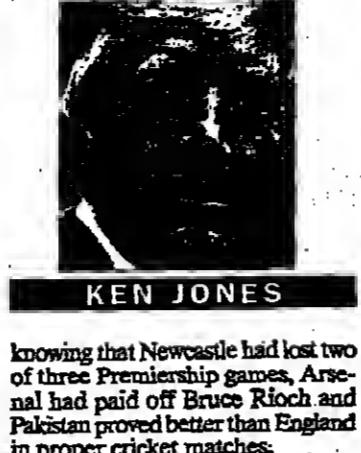
A fact about the Dream Team in Atlanta is that it was what Americans call a "bust" in the television ratings. Might it not improve things if somebody at NBC suggested, if Ali was put on show to have his medal replaced?

This where it gets cynical. NBC gained the predictable support of the International Olympic Committee president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, on the strict understanding that the stricken former heavyweight champion changed his story. He did not throw his gold medal

away, but lost it. Sweetened by a handsome fee and the joy he obviously gets from fresh adulation, Ali agreed. You may think no harm was done by this, but when television starts tinkering with the truth it is time to worry.

When travelling recently through a remote area of Spain, I came across a bar in which people were applauding a televised repeat of Ali's medal ceremony. History was being altered for them.

Before making that journey a personal vow was that no attempt would be made to remain in touch with current sporting issues. This is easier said than done, but it can be slightly disconcerting. I returned not



KEN JONES

knowing that Newcastle had lost two of three Premiership games, Arsenal had paid off Bruce Rioch and Pakistan proved better than England in proper cricket matches.

By all accounts, some of the

ballers and managers have been up to the unappetising standards of last season. The rift with referees appears to be even wider and, as usual, clubs are grumbling about the needs of national teams.

Everywhere, of course, there is the overwhelming smell of money. We have come to accept this as a way of life in sport, but there seemed to be some hope that common sense would prevail as rugby union took on professionalism. Instead, the game is in disarray, riven by internecine strife and mindless greed.

When, you have to wonder, will sports performers realise that there are damn sight harder ways to make a living?

Anyone old enough to read this

has lived long enough to have witnessed growth in the popularity of sport, particularly football. What we are into now is an age when it matters more than some of us older guys find healthy.

No doubt about it, someone said before last Saturday's rugby match between Saracens and Leicester, sport is hostage to its paymasters. He was thinking mainly about television.

Interestingly, then, last Monday's match between the Premiership leaders, Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester City, put out live by the Sky network, drew barely more than 17,000 spectators to Hillsborough.

In the past week, I have dared to wonder what sport will look like in the next millennium. Will it enjoy the

fruits of technical improvement or succumb to pervasive greed? By then people may have put their heads together and come to the conclusion that nothing is for ever.

The belief in progress is certainly a stimulant to achieve, but it disguises from us the truth that no game guaranteed to remain as fascinating as football is presently.

And what is this national pride people keep going on about? To my mind, nothing more ridiculous has been put forth recently in sport than the idea of playing tapes of Winston Churchill's most stirring speeches to England's cricketers. Maybe I have got this wrong, but I thought it was bat, bowler and fielding that mattered, not pumped-up patriotism.

## Lathwell rises to occasion

### Cricket

DEREK HODGSON  
reports from Taunton  
Derbyshire 524  
Somerset 238-4

Mark Lathwell saved his first Championship century of the summer for this vital match, checking the contenders after they had made a record score. Derbyshire are still favourites on a pitch that is not improving, but Lathwell, passing 1,000 runs for a fifth consecutive season, has at least raised Somerset spirits.

When he is in this form, driving and turning, with impeccable timing, three England fast bowlers, he looks the opener the selectors thought he would become when he was picked against Australia in 1993. He was given his cue by his partner Marcos Trescothick. With Derbyshire's score looming, Trescothick set about some famous names while Lathwell picked off runs at the other end. The pair had reached 76 in 18 overs when the left-handed Trescothick, who had pulled Dominic Cork for a magnificent six, followed him down the legside, with Karl Krikken taking a splendid catch.

Lathwell made his 100 off 141 balls, including 19 fours, before stepping back to play on. Peter Bowles' excellent support ended when Andrew Harris won the second of successive lbw appeals. Harris, 1 for 17 in a spell of eight overs, was the first Derbyshire bowler to make the ball kick, at the River End, as Andrew Caddick had done on Tuesday. Glen Roberts' tidy howling deserved a wicket.

Somerset needed a lift after a dismal morning when the field-

ing vied with the bowling in ineptness. Krikken is known to be an awkward seven or eight; what was unexpected was the ability of Glen Roberts and Harris to take advantage. Krikken and Roberts added 100 in 23 overs, passing the best for the eighth wicket against Somerset, 113 in 1929.

Krikken might have been taken at slip, off Caddick, when 72 but added another 17 before being caught behind, swinging at Jason Kerr. Roberts reached his maiden 100, on debut, including eight fours, before being well caught at cover. And when Harris played on, the Derbyshire total was a record against Somerset, passing the previous best of 495 for 7 in 1981. Somerset conceded 98 runs in 21 overs to the last four batsmen. Andre van Troost's injury meant they were a bowler short; they were also lacking professional pride.

Hampshire's teenage pace bowler Duanii Mascaleras took 6 for 88 against Glamorgan at Southampton - the best figures this century by a Hampshire player on debut. The figures of Mascaleras, an English-born Australian of Sri Lankan parentage, compare with Charles Lewellyn's 8 for 132 against Australia in 1899. Glamorgan were 401 all out, and at the close, Hampshire were 208 behind at 193 for 2, with Jason Lacey unbeaten on 102 - his first Championship century. Phil Tufnell struck two late blows to boost Middlesex's chances against Lancashire at Old Trafford. Lancashire need just 130 for 5, even achieved a 15 run lead under Wasim's guidance before the game developed into a winner-take-all oot-innings contest.

After totalling a mere 150 Championship runs in the first half of the summer, Wasim has his third in the Championship, his second

made two hundreds in the past month. His latest amounted to almost half of Warwickshire's total before the balance tipped again as Gooch and Paul Grayson responded with an opening partnership of 77 in 16 overs. Gooch's own half-century was from 77 balls.

These twists and turns did little to clarify fifth-placed Essex's title-winning prospects, though their dropping of six catches, of varying degrees of difficulty, must be a concern. Gooch put down Trevor Penney at second slip while other culprits included Grayson and Neil Williams.

Wasim's century was his third of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Penney and Doug Brown helped resuscitate Warwickshire by sharing half-century partnerships with Wasim, though Ashley Giles and Neil Williams all had to be dismissed today. Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting struggles and more on the second morning, the pitch became flatter, though Peter Soci turned the odd ball disconcertingly. It illustrated why Warwickshire had opted for two spinners, Ashley Giles and Neil Williams. All their guile will be needed today to halt the Essex charge, which contracted the game's previous pattern of collapse and recovery. Just as Warwickshire lost five first innings wickets cheaply, so did Essex.

Wasim, at 25, remains a player of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Penney and Doug Brown helped resuscitate Warwickshire by sharing half-century partnerships with Wasim, though Ashley Giles and Neil Williams all had to be dismissed today. Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting

struggles and more on the second morning, the pitch became flatter, though Peter Soci turned the odd ball disconcertingly. It illustrated why Warwickshire had opted for two spinners, Ashley Giles and Neil Williams. All their guile will be needed today to halt the Essex charge, which contracted the game's previous pattern of collapse and recovery. Just as Warwickshire lost five first innings wickets cheaply, so did Essex.

Wasim, at 25, remains a player of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Penney and Doug Brown helped resuscitate Warwickshire by sharing half-century partnerships with Wasim, though Ashley Giles and Neil Williams all had to be dismissed today. Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting

struggles and more on the second morning, the pitch became flatter, though Peter Soci turned the odd ball disconcertingly. It illustrated why Warwickshire had opted for two spinners, Ashley Giles and Neil Williams. All their guile will be needed today to halt the Essex charge, which contracted the game's previous pattern of collapse and recovery. Just as Warwickshire lost five first innings wickets cheaply, so did Essex.

Wasim, at 25, remains a player of promise rather than ful-

MICHAEL AUSTIN  
reports from Edgbaston  
Essex 238 and 113-1  
Warwickshire 253

Wasim Khan, together with his Essex adversary Graham Gooch, ensured this tight match turned several more unexpected somersaults amid a quickening tempo. Warwickshire, once 65 for 5, even achieved a 15 run lead under Wasim's guidance before the game developed into a winner-take-all oot-innings contest.

After totalling a mere 150 Championship runs in the first half of the summer, Wasim has his third in the Championship, his second

made two hundreds in the past month. His latest amounted to almost half of Warwickshire's total before the balance tipped again as Gooch and Paul Grayson responded with an opening partnership of 77 in 16 overs. Gooch's own half-century was from 77 balls.

These twists and turns did little to clarify fifth-placed Essex's title-winning prospects, though their dropping of six catches, of varying degrees of difficulty, must be a concern. Gooch put down Trevor Penney at second slip while other culprits included Grayson and Neil Williams.

Wasim's century was his third of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Penney and Doug Brown helped resuscitate Warwickshire by sharing half-century partnerships with Wasim, though Ashley Giles and Neil Williams all had to be dismissed today. Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting

struggles and more on the second morning, the pitch became flatter, though Peter Soci turned the odd ball disconcertingly. It illustrated why Warwickshire had opted for two spinners, Ashley Giles and Neil Williams. All their guile will be needed today to halt the Essex charge, which contracted the game's previous pattern of collapse and recovery. Just as Warwickshire lost five first innings wickets cheaply, so did Essex.

Wasim, at 25, remains a player of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Penney and Doug Brown helped resuscitate Warwickshire by sharing half-century partnerships with Wasim, though Ashley Giles and Neil Williams all had to be dismissed today. Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting

struggles and more on the second morning, the pitch became flatter, though Peter Soci turned the odd ball disconcertingly. It illustrated why Warwickshire had opted for two spinners, Ashley Giles and Neil Williams. All their guile will be needed today to halt the Essex charge, which contracted the game's previous pattern of collapse and recovery. Just as Warwickshire lost five first innings wickets cheaply, so did Essex.

Wasim, at 25, remains a player of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Penney and Doug Brown helped resuscitate Warwickshire by sharing half-century partnerships with Wasim, though Ashley Giles and Neil Williams all had to be dismissed today. Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting

struggles and more on the second morning, the pitch became flatter, though Peter Soci turned the odd ball disconcertingly. It illustrated why Warwickshire had opted for two spinners, Ashley Giles and Neil Williams. All their guile will be needed today to halt the Essex charge, which contracted the game's previous pattern of collapse and recovery. Just as Warwickshire lost five first innings wickets cheaply, so did Essex.

Wasim, at 25, remains a player of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Penney and Doug Brown helped resuscitate Warwickshire by sharing half-century partnerships with Wasim, though Ashley Giles and Neil Williams all had to be dismissed today. Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting

struggles and more on the second morning, the pitch became flatter, though Peter Soci turned the odd ball disconcertingly. It illustrated why Warwickshire had opted for two spinners, Ashley Giles and Neil Williams. All their guile will be needed today to halt the Essex charge, which contracted the game's previous pattern of collapse and recovery. Just as Warwickshire lost five first innings wickets cheaply, so did Essex.

Wasim, at 25, remains a player of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Penney and Doug Brown helped resuscitate Warwickshire by sharing half-century partnerships with Wasim, though Ashley Giles and Neil Williams all had to be dismissed today. Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting

struggles and more on the second morning, the pitch became flatter, though Peter Soci turned the odd ball disconcertingly. It illustrated why Warwickshire had opted for two spinners, Ashley Giles and Neil Williams. All their guile will be needed today to halt the Essex charge, which contracted the game's previous pattern of collapse and recovery. Just as Warwickshire lost five first innings wickets cheaply, so did Essex.

Wasim, at 25, remains a player of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Penney and Doug Brown helped resuscitate Warwickshire by sharing half-century partnerships with Wasim, though Ashley Giles and Neil Williams all had to be dismissed today. Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting

struggles and more on the second morning, the pitch became flatter, though Peter Soci turned the odd ball disconcertingly. It illustrated why Warwickshire had opted for two spinners, Ashley Giles and Neil Williams. All their guile will be needed today to halt the Essex charge, which contracted the game's previous pattern of collapse and recovery. Just as Warwickshire lost five first innings wickets cheaply, so did Essex.

Wasim, at 25, remains a player of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting

struggles and more on the second morning, the pitch became flatter, though Peter Soci turned the odd ball disconcertingly. It illustrated why Warwickshire had opted for two spinners, Ashley Giles and Neil Williams. All their guile will be needed today to halt the Essex charge, which contracted the game's previous pattern of collapse and recovery. Just as Warwickshire lost five first innings wickets cheaply, so did Essex.

Wasim, at 25, remains a player of promise rather than ful-

filment, though he treated the Essex attack with relish. His first half-century occurred 135 balls, his second only 90 despite the crisis around him. In all he faced 264 balls, hitting 16 fours and a six before being last out.

Gooch has shown his best form in August having ended a year-long wait after scoring 181 against Hampshire at Southampton.

After the first-day batting



# SPORT

Play INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL  
in tomorrow's paper

## England players stand by their rebellious clubs

### Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN

England's players and English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, the body now representing the top 24 clubs in the country, are united – that much is official and clear – in their stand against the Rugby Football Union, formerly known as the game's governing body.

After a meeting of 42 of the 43 England squad players, who

had boycotted yesterday's first national training session of the season, with Epruc at a hotel near Heathrow Airport, a joint statement left Twickenham in no doubt of the solidarity shown by the two parties.

However, it was not made clear just how this solidarity would manifest itself. After more than 90 minutes, this think tank of professional rugby produced the following statement:

"The England rugby squad of 43 [sic] have shown their support

for Epruc by attending a scheduled meeting today. Having heard their proposals, the England squad believe that the best way forward for the game is to agree in principle with their vision for the future. Epruc and the players have agreed to form a joint team to take this rapidly forward."

No one would explain any more than that. Most of the players slipped discreetly out of side and back doors in an effort to sidestep the media scrum.

Those who did emerge said nothing. But prior to the get-together, the Northampton captain, Tim Rodber, said: "We are being used as pawns. We would rather be playing or training. But there is so much going on that this meeting is necessary, to find out our position."

Clearly there are plans to build an infrastructure from which this Epruc-players combine will be able to set up domestic and European club competition and, eventually,

international matches. They mean business and calling the meeting was a smart move on the part of Epruc, which represents the top 24 clubs. The first England contracts expired at the weekend and Epruc seized the initiative to embarrass the RFU following the announcement of its breakaway last week.

Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, expressed "disappointment" that the clubs had used the players as "a negotiating tool". He also pointed out that

if Epruc break away it will have to generate its own revenue without the help of the RFU. "We do not believe that they can match what can be done if we work together," he said.

Derek Morgan, the chairman of the RFU's National Playing committee, said: "We greatly regret the absence of the players. No action will be taken against them. Unfortunately the players are caught in a situation not of their making. I cannot believe that anyone would willingly not

want to be involved with an England squad or ultimately to rule themselves out of contention for England."

Only one squad member was not at the meeting. Coventry's Robin Hardwick dutifully drove to Bisham Abbey to be confronted by the England coaching and management team, an empty pitch, no players and no real idea of what was going on.

Hardwick, who has made 10 England A appearances, said:

"I want to play for England. If

that means turning up at a session when I'm invited, I turn up. I had no instruction from Epruc or anyone else not to turn up. I had a letter from England asking to attend and I had a phone call from Twickenham yesterday [Tuesday] saying that the session was on. I don't really understand what is going on. I just hope they get the whole thing sorted out."

That is the heartfelt plea of a nation of rugby followers. Scots stand firm on contracts, page 27

## Wilkins shocks Wright

### Football

ANDREW MARTIN

A fresh twist to the news that Ray Wilkins' two-year reign as Queen's Park Rangers' player-manager had come to an end emerged last night when the club's new owner, Chris Wright, revealed that the former England captain had quit.

A statement released by the club earlier yesterday stated that Wilkins left "by mutual consent" following "lengthy discussions" with Wright and the chief executive, Clive Berlin.

However, Wright claims he was "shocked and surprised" at Wilkins' decision. He said: "Ray's a nice and genuinely caring person and he thought that for the benefit of himself and for the club it would be better to take the opportunity to hand over to someone else. There were no bad feelings. But having got over the shock of it we have to move on."

Wilkins had said after Sunday's home defeat by Bolton that he was due to attend his first board meeting since Wright, a music-publishing magnate, brought the club for around £1m at the start of the season. Wilkins, who has been striving to keep the coveted winger Trevor Sinclair at Loftus Road, even joked that this could mean had news.

Wright, however, speaking on QPR Clubcall, said: "I thought we had a good meeting. Ray left with a clear mandate of which players he wanted to bring to the club, so I was shocked when he said he wanted to discuss the possibility of leaving."

"I was shocked and surprised at Ray's decision. It's very distressing but we have to deal with it and we will deal with it. We need to get the right man in to bring in the right players to take the club forward."

Nottingham Forest have played down reports that their manager, Frank Clark, is at the centre of a new inquiry into the activities of the agent, Rune

Hauge. Norwegian police are believed to have made a request to the Home Office to interview Clark over the transfer of Alf Inge Haland to Forest.

The assistant manager, Alan Hill, said: "We don't know what all the fuss is about. We co-operated with the Norwegian police when they came over to make inquiries about the transfer and they were happy the entire deal had been done before Frank took over as manager."

Hauge has been charged with serious fraud over the transfers of Haland to Forest and Pal Lydersen to Arsenal.

Wimbledon's owner, Sam Hammam, has confirmed that Dean Holdsworth has submitted a written transfer request. Yet the striker, valued at £3m but dropped for last Monday's 1-0 defeat at Leeds, remains in favour with Hammam, who added: "We still love him." He refused to say whether the request had been accepted.

Holdsworth, 26, joined Wimbledon for £750,000 from Brentford four years ago and scored 16 goals in all competitions last season. He has had an uneasy relationship with the manager, Roy Kinnear, for a while now and several times over the last two seasons has appeared on the point of being sold.

One club that had shown an interest in signing Holdsworth, Manchester United, had their European Cup ambitions bolstered by the news that Eric Cantona will be available for their opening Champions League tie against Juventus in Turin next week. United had expected to be without the Frenchman, as he was booked in a Champions League game against Gothenburg in November 1994 and was facing a one-match ban, which was due to be enforced next Wednesday.

However, Uefa, the European governing body, confirmed that the ban no longer counts as Cantona missed last season's UEFA Cup tie against Rotor Volgograd while serving his eight-month worldwide suspension.



Relegation to resignation: Ray Wilkins, who yesterday quit as Queen's Park Rangers' manager. Photograph: Dale Cherry

## Atletico turf out the worms

ELIZABETH NASH

reports from Madrid

Atletico Madrid, forced to play their first league match of the season on the pitch of their arch-rivals Real Madrid because their own had been destroyed by worms, will play their first match of the Champions' League on French turf.

Uefa, football's European governing body, has insisted that next Wednesday's match against Steaua Bucharest must be played at Atletico's Vicente Calderon ground, since press

and security facilities at Real's Santiago Bernabeu stadium fall short of European requirements. So Spain's cup and league double winners must replant their entire pitch with special grass imported from Bordeaux.

Faced with Uefa's ultimatum, Atletico hired two Californian grass experts who supervised the United States pitches during the World Cup finals, and who reckon the ravaged pitch can be restored in time. Their emergency solution is to transplant turf from France, which they say is the right kind to correct the damage inflicted by a plague of worms that chomped through Atletico's reseeded pitch last month.

The operation must be concluded by Sunday, since the newly laid grass has to rest three days before withstanding the imprint of a footballer's boot. Atletico's owner, Jesus Gil

Gil, said: "Uefa told us that our ground met their requirements and Real's didn't, and that we had to play the Champions' League there." The decision was "the best for everyone," he said, and thanked Real for offering their stadium.

In training sessions at the Vicente Calderon stadium last week, Atletico's players gouged up huge wedges of the pitch. The coach, Radomir Antic, pronounced the terrain unplayable, and expected it to be out of action for weeks.

Matias Almeyda, the Argentine international defender, began training with his Seville team-mates yesterday and looks set to make his debut in Sunday's home game against Real Zaragoza.

The former River Plate player was received on Tuesday by 12,000 Seville fans in an atmosphere of euphoria similar to that surrounding the arrival of another Argentine, the World

Cup winner Diego Maradona, in 1992.

"It's like a dream. I could stay here all night," said Almeyda of the supporters' welcome.

Almeyda, 22, played a prominent part in helping Argentina to win a silver medal at the Atlanta Olympic Games and is a regular at full international level.

Rangers' forgotten man, Neil Murray, is being lined up for a move to the Cypriot side, Apollon Nicosia. The out-of-contract midfielder is wanted by Apollon who can sign him from Ibrox on a free transfer under the Bosman rules.

Murray is recovering from a minor knee operation and should be fit in a fortnight. Apollon are willing to wait but will need an answer soon afterwards. The home-grown Rangers product knows he has little chance of making the first team and could be ready to try his luck overseas.

## Dundee in safe hands

Billy Thomson was a Dark Blue hero on Tayside yesterday after guiding Dundee into the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals at the expense of his old club, Dundee United. Hearts and Aberdeen also joined in the last eight despite enduring extra-time on Tuesday night at St Johnstone and Morton respectively.

The veteran goalkeeper Thomson, 38, saved twice in a penalty shoot-out at Tannadice as Jim Duffy's First Division side knocked out their Premier Division neighbours. United led through Owen Coyle but Jim Hamilton scored twice, once from the spot, before Gary McGraw's First Division leaders, Morton.

Billy Dodds scored twice to have the Dons apparently coasting until the referee, Mike McCurry, awarded Morton a controversial penalty. Derek Lilley converted and, after John Anderson equalised, Lilley fired the underdogs ahead.

Dodds spared Aberdeen's blushes to score his hat-trick with a late spot-kick and ensure another half hour. Extra time belonged to Dean Windass, the vital goal in the first-half.

out, he was not prepared to miss out any of his entire side. "Everyone was a real hero," he said. "There are very few games in which a manager emerges with nothing to complain about, but that was one of them."

The United manager, Billy Kirkwood, was not so happy. "My players let themselves and their team-mates down. Every one of them placed pressures on their team-mates at some point in that tie," he said.

Aberdeen, the Scottish Coca-Cola Cup holders, survived a scare in an incredible match at Cappielow against Allan McGraw's First Division leaders, Alloa Rovers at Cliftonhill.

Billy Dodds scored twice to have the Dons apparently coasting until the referee, Mike McCurry, awarded Morton a controversial penalty. Derek Lilley converted and, after John Anderson equalised, Lilley fired the underdogs ahead.

Dodds spared Aberdeen's blushes to score his hat-trick with a late spot-kick and ensure another half hour. Extra time belonged to Dean Windass, the vital goal in the first-half.

## MORSE

## Put your Plans on ICE.



Oracle designs its business applications and databases to optimise the features of Sun Microsystems' Enterprise servers.

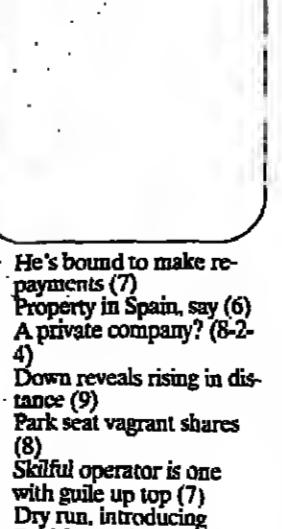
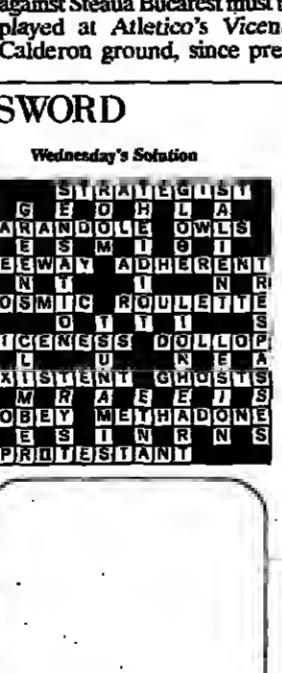
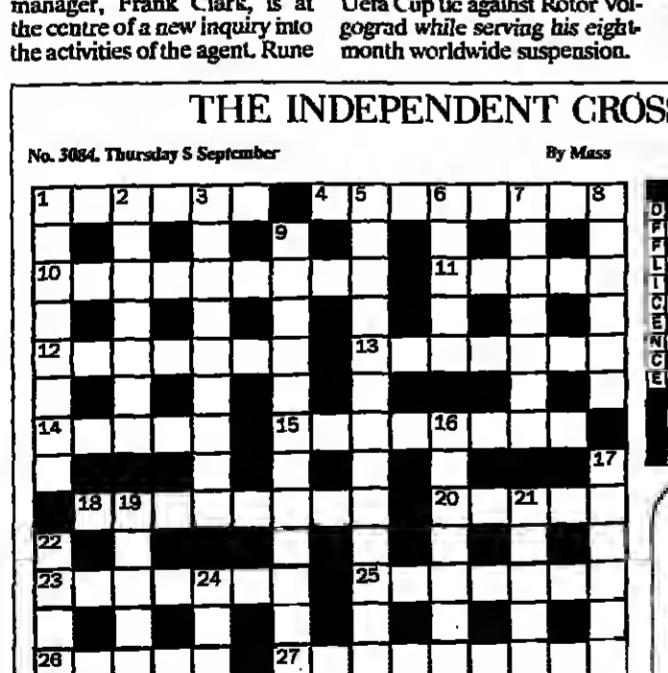
They are also 'Web-enabled', meaning that Oracle software can be used to develop new intranet applications. Existing Oracle applications can be easily migrated to the Web.

It is part of what Oracle and Sun call ICE - Internet Centric Excellence. And it is why these two companies are setting the pace in Internet/intranet computing.

Call us. Our consultants can explain how you can exploit this technology.



Morse Computers 0181 232 8686



Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print Ltd, Albion Road, Watford.

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01992 840170.

Thursday 5 September 1996 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.